Ann Arbor Observer

January 2009

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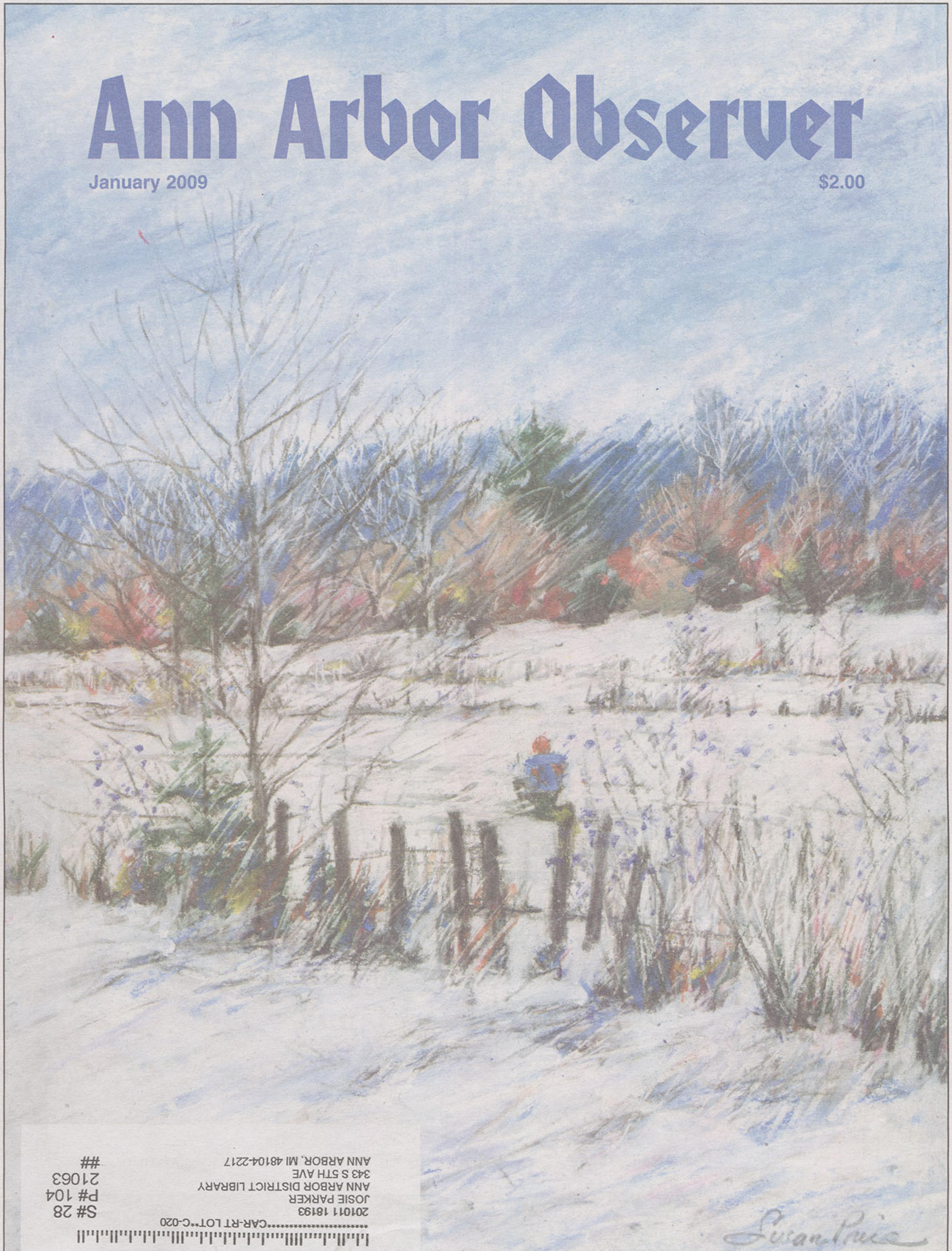

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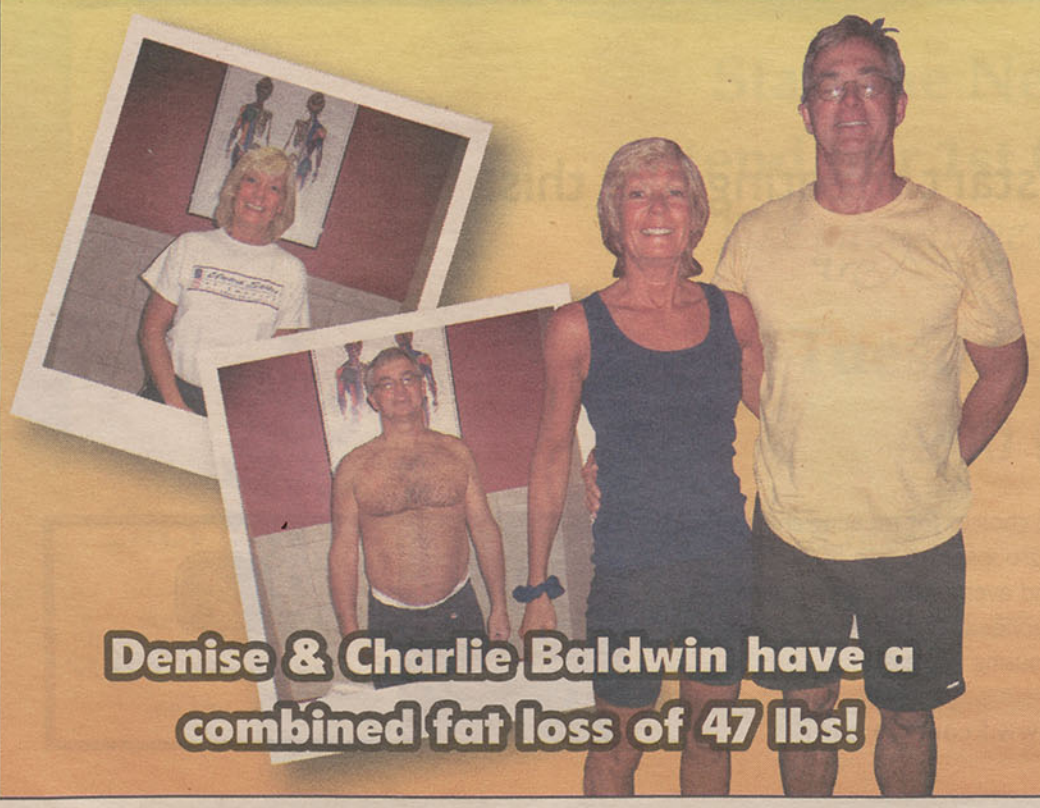

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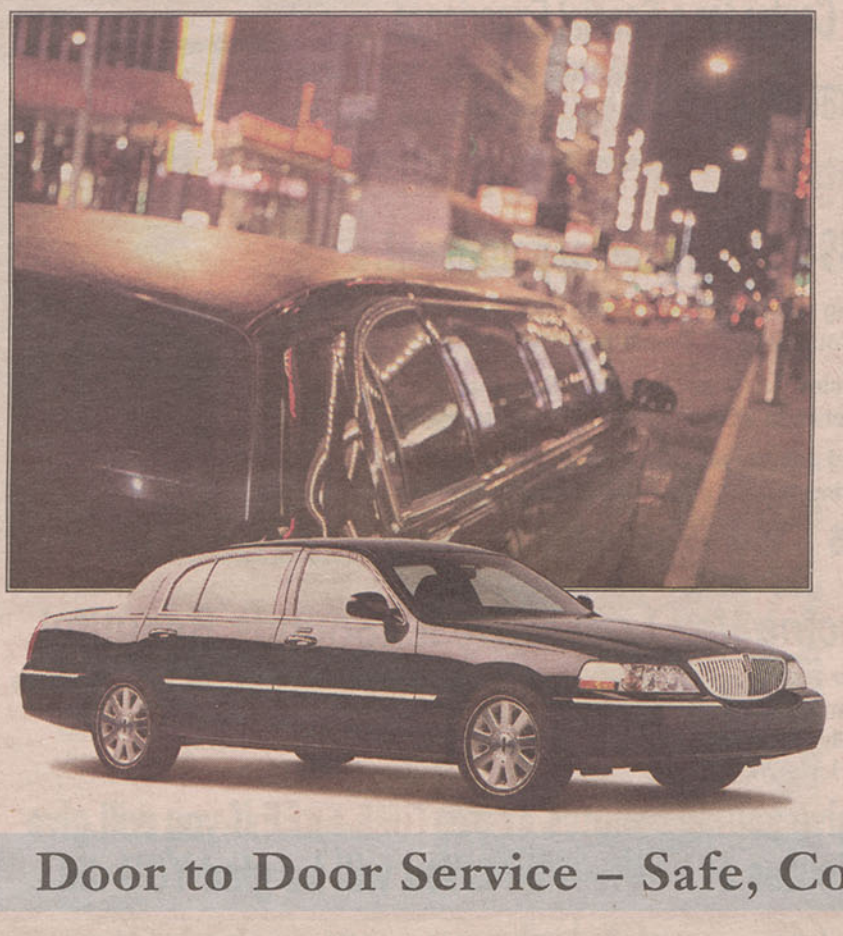

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Ann Arbor Observer

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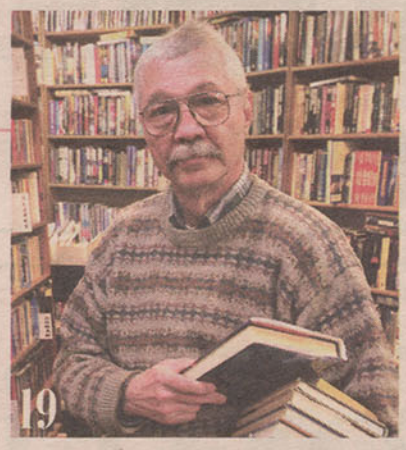

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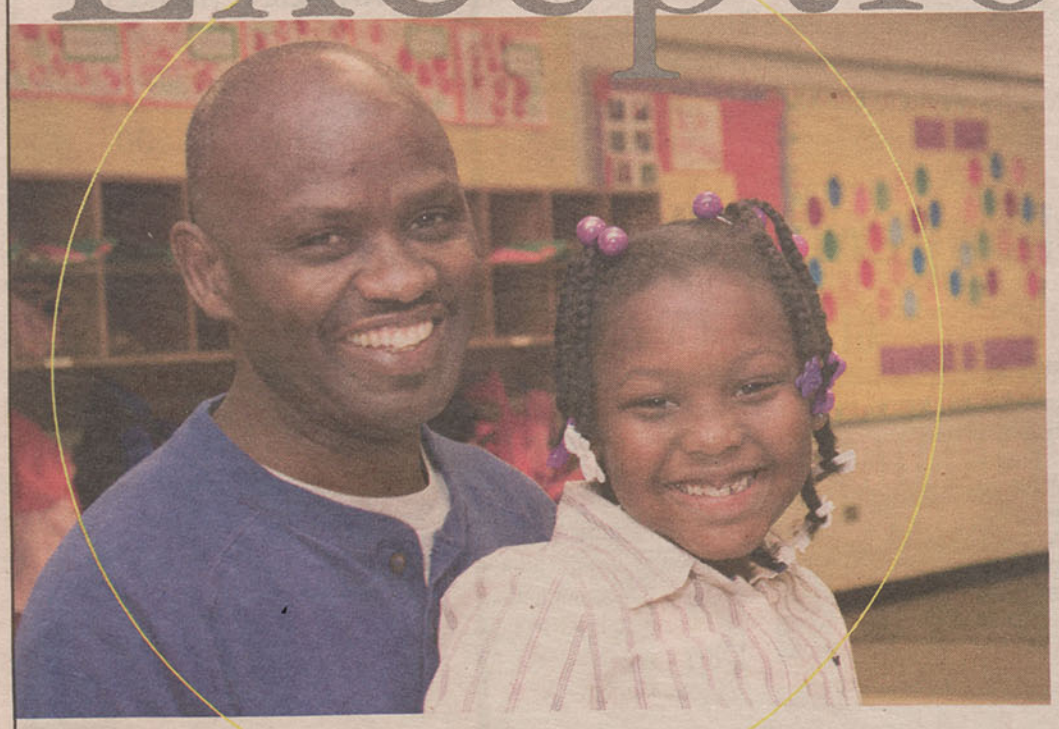

Morgan Solomon and his daughter
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UpFront

Inauguration celebration: The day after Barack Obama was elected president, Stefanie Thacker made plane and hotel reservations for herself, her husband, and their two daughters to be in Washington, D.C., for the inauguration. As an African American, Thacker felt a special pride in Obama's victory—but so did scores of other Ann Arborites who'll be making the trip to see the new president take office. U-M junior and Obama volunteer Nathaniel Styer says many students he knows plan to carpool, crashing at the homes of friends and family in D.C. Another fifty students will go by bus, in a program subsidized by their U-M residences—though hotel rooms are so scarce they'll have to stay at a conference center an hour and a half from the capital. County drain commissioner Janis Bobrin confidently booked a room before the election—and is glad she did. "The hotel rates have tripled since I ordered," Bobrin says. "I'm already paying $395 a night."

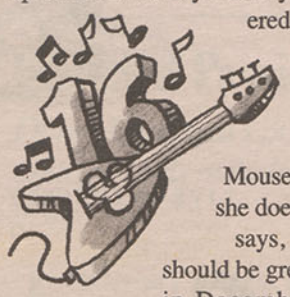
Bobrin and Thacker are hoping to get tickets from congressman John Dingell's office that would allow them a closer view of the ceremony, but the competition for those is fierce, too: according to a Dingell aide, by mid-December the congressman had already received "several thousand" requests.

Championship ring: By failing to qualify for a bowl game for the first time in thirty-three years, the Michigan football team missed out on some nice perks. Bowl game sponsors shower participants with gifts, and schools frequently present the players on winning teams with gaudy rings. The U-M won't have to worry about that expense this year—but last month the public was able to purchase a piece of Michigan's finest season in more than a half century. In December a 1997 Michigan national championship ring was listed on eBay. According to the seller, it was originally owned by Demetrius Smith, a fullback on Lloyd Carr's great team. While it's not clear how the ring ended up on eBay, Smith's dismissal from the team in 1999 might explain why he and the jewelry parted ways.

The NCAA limits the value of gifts to players, and the seller disclosed that the gems are synthetic. Whether it was the fake diamonds, the economy, or a downtrodden fan base, no one stepped up to offer the $3,600 starting price, and the ring went unsold.

A cake for Miley: "It's the weirdest thing," says Cake Nouveau owner Courtney Clark. "There I am in Disneyland surrounded by all these kids—fans with Hannah Montana shirts on—making a birthday cake for such a big star." The occasion: a Food Network competition in October in which Clark and three other chefs had vied to create the best edible work of art for star Miley Ray Cyrus's sixteenth birthday.

Bound to secrecy, Clark can't reveal who won till the episode airs sometime in January. But she has won $10,000 prizes in Food Network competitions twice before—a good thing, since the cost of buying and shipping all her own supplies adds up fast. Her ten-layer Miley cake was covered in rock 'n' roll decorations, from piano keys to a hot pink Mickey Mouse guitar. Even if she doesn't win, Clark says, the appearance should be great advertising: in December, a posting about one of her cakes on a Food Network blog sent so much traffic to her website that the server crashed.



Where's the sheriff? "Dan Minzey seems to have fallen off the face of the earth," says county commissioner Leah Gunn. "The fact is *nobody* I know has laid eyes on him since the election." That election would be the August Democratic primary—the one where Minzey backed Gunn's opponent, and Gunn backed his. Gunn won, Minzey lost, and the already reclusive sheriff pretty much disappeared from public view. "I haven't seen him in a year and a half," says commissioner Conan Smith. "Maybe longer than that."

Sheriff's department spokesman Dave Egeler is usually pretty laconic—but there's heat in his voice when he's asked whether Minzey might have abdicated before his term expired. "That is patently incorrect," says Egeler, who, like most of his colleagues on Minzey's management team, will be out of a job on January 1. "This is a twenty-four-seven operation, and the management team of the sheriff's office—*including the sheriff*—are still very much present managing operations through the end of the year," he declares. A department staffer who insisted on anonymity adds, "I've haven't seen any commissioners out here for a year, year and a half, either—*so how would they know?"*

Missing pigs: Three bronze pigs have gone missing from the playground at County Farm Park. According to Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation deputy director Tom Freeman, the metallic mother and her three piglets that once clustered near the water trough were very popular with visitors, including children who delighted in playing on the sculptures. Unfortunately, these little piggies were not

designed with climbing and jumping in mind, and several injuries resulted—including what Freeman describes as "a significant puncture wound." Efforts to decrease the pigs' threat level proved unsuccessful. "We tried to make a modification to the pigs by grinding down some surfaces," Freeman explains, "but it didn't work." Ultimately, only one was deemed safe enough to remain on the playground. But while the rest are gone, they're not forgotten: Freeman reports that he and his staff are looking for a safe way to reincorporate the pigs into the park's landscape.

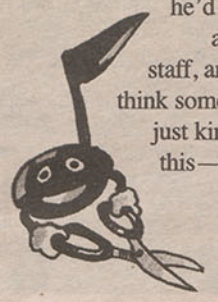
Behind the veil: Like a flashy lure, Liberty Street Robot Supply and Repair demands attention. From the street, large windows give an unobstructed view of comical, lounging robots and kid-friendly shelves lined with boxes of mechanical arms, windup toys, and other futuristic gadgets. But what's behind that crimson velvet curtain?

"The shop is only here to get people to come in and ask questions. Every day people are let in on the joke," explains Tyler Brubaker, the white-coated shopkeeper. The "joke" is that the store is a front for 826michigan—a nonprofit tutoring center. Four days a week after school, about twenty students, ages eight to eighteen, work with volunteers in a curtained-off study area behind the store, mainly on motivation and writing. "The shop is the perfect shill for 826," Brubaker says. "Kids who come in here for the first time get the joke, and it eases their fears about the academic side." "I get to finish my homework and get help," says eight-year-old Bushra. Her newest skill: "I learned how to write haikus a couple days ago."

Gifts keep on giving: For people with too much stuff, the online freecycle group is a blessing. Members sign up at freecycle.org and then send out "offers" to give away surplus items—furniture, computer accessories, even a usable though battered suitcase. Others reply, sometimes within minutes. The exchange is usually made as a "porch pickup," without so much as a face-to-face meeting.

As Christmas approached, though, a more human side to the group was evident: "wanted" postings from financially pressed gift-givers. "Wondering if anyone out there has a train set that they are not using anymore," wrote one parent. "I would love to put one under the Christmas tree for my two-year-old son." Another sought clothes or boots for a teenage neighbor, "so he will have something under the tree to open." And one resourceful poster sought "items to use for gift baskets I'm making for extended family for Christmas. Could be anything from packaged candy to tea bags to candles. If you have any thing you're looking to get rid of, including actual baskets, please let me know."

Snips and songs: It was a snowy December afternoon at Vicki's Wash & Wear Haircuts. Vicki Honeyman was cutting hair at the barber chair in the middle of her Heavenly Metal boutique while David Menefee, a white-bearded local stonemason and troubadour, modeled what he called his Father Christmas outfit, which he'd cobbled together from a druidic-looking robe, staff, and lantern. "So do you think someone would hire me to just kind of walk around like this—and, you know, play a few tunes?" he asked Honeyman and her client in the chair. "I haven't made any money all year," he complained.



Menefee then tuned up his guitar and was serenading Honeyman with "Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire" when William Bolcom and Joan Morris walked through the door for their haircuts. While the Pulitzer Prize–winning composer settled himself in the barber chair, mezzo-soprano Morris and Menefee quickly found common ground. First they crooned out Irving Berlin's "Always." Then she asked him whether he knew Hank Williams's "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry." She sang, he played, the room stood still. Menefee said, approvingly, "Hey, Joan, I didn't know you liked this hillbilly music." "It's a beautiful song," replied Morris gravely.

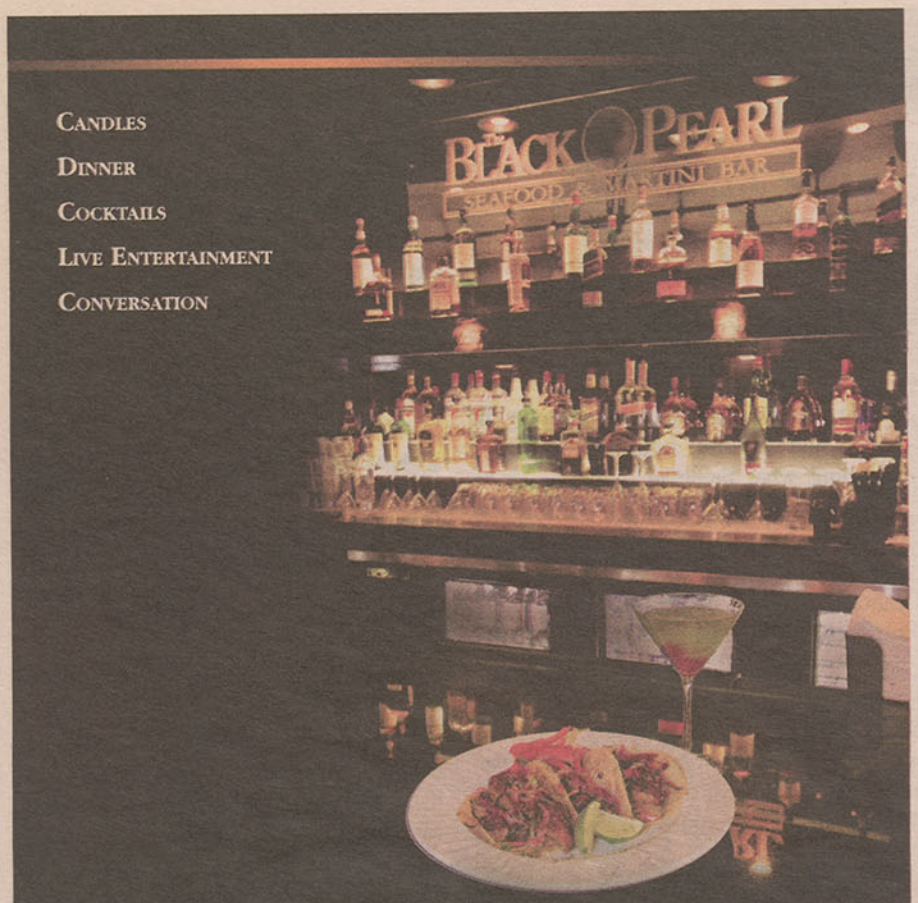
Overheard: Walking down Miller in the first snowstorm of the season, two men

bowed their heads to the wind as their boots crunched the newly fallen snow.

"So what do you think about this weather?" asked one.

"I like it," his companion replied. "It keeps the Californians away."

ILLUSTRATIONS JERIMIAH B. BROWN



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Saving Nichols Drive

Even on the rainiest weekend in recent history, new "river vanes" protected a vital road into Nichols Arboretum.

DONALD GRAY

Kayakers docked last summer alongside a new "vane" on Nichols Drive.

Beginning in the parking lot below the U-M Hospitals, Nichols Drive runs along a steep, curved bank of glacial moraine that rises at a forty-degree angle to a height of eighty-five feet. And it runs right alongside a wicked curve in the Huron River. Two years ago, the outer edges of the road washed out there.

"A combination of waterlogged soils and the river eating into the shoreline was causing the road to collapse," says Bob Grese, the Arb's self-effacing fifty-three-year-old director. Letting Nichols Drive fall into the river was not an option: "It's the emergency entrance into the Arb and access to a main sewer line," explains Grese ("GRAY-see"). "The city couldn't risk not being able to get to that sewer line if it were to fail, and the university couldn't risk not being able to get someone out of the Arb in an emergency. That's the only one of our roads that a fire truck can access."

The U-M and the city partnered on a $370,000 project to save the road. They hired Marty Boote's firm, Environmental Consulting, to design three "vanes"—tapered piles of limestone boulders that curve out from the south bank of the Huron River like rhinoceros horns. Don Gray, a U-M emeritus professor of civil and environmental engineering who's helped Grese carry out a series of innovative "bioengineering" erosion control projects, served as a volunteer advisor.

When a September storm dumped four inches of rain on the area in four days, Gray went out to see for himself how the vanes were working in high water. He says that though the stones were completely submerged, subtle patterns on the water's surface made it clear they were still deflecting the rain-swollen power of the water away from the fragile bank.

Smaller vanes also saved a footpath along Fleming Creek in the U-M's Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Gray and project manager Sarah Weiss personally did some of the heavy lifting on that project—alongside a crew of people sentenced to community service by local courts.

Postcard Passion

Doug Aikenhead's 50,000 vintage cards include some local gems.

Aikenhead's business, Boulevard Postcards, may be the only one in the area that deals exclusively in old cards—most postcard merchants also trade in magazines or books. The Detroit native and trained photographer has a day job managing rental properties, but postcards consume much of the rest of his time. He specializes in American photo postcards from the turn of the century to the 1930s, and says he just about broke even last year on sales of $30,000 "because I keep buying more postcards."

Aikenhead currently has about 100 Ann Arbor cards and is always looking for more. Especially coveted are photographs of long-ago U-M football players or coaches. Others feature familiar landmarks like Angell Hall, vanished buildings like the private Peterson hospital (where the downtown Federal Building is now), and some breaking news, like the fire at the First Methodist Church in 1906.

Aikenhead says Ann Arbor cards typically retail for at least $50. Vintage photo postcard prices started "skyrocketing" in the 1980s, he explains—partly because both baby boomers and the Greatest Generation were nostalgic for an earlier, idealized time in America. "People recognize that postcards represent a special window, detailed and compelling, on the early twentieth century," he says. But they don't all suggest happy times. One somber scene from Detroit showing African American women and children in front of a house is captioned "Home for unwed mothers." Another shows an old woman posed next to a Bible; it reads "I am all alone."

Aikenhead replenishes his inventory buying from other dealers or on eBay. Unlike those dream discoveries on Antiques Roadshow, *he says, finding valuable postcards at a garage sale is "almost unheard of."*

COURTESY DOUG AIKENHEAD

Clowns march down State Street in a 1909 card.

MARK BIALEK

The Townships' Revenge

"As long as we stick together," says county commissioner Jessica Ping, "we can do this again next year."

Ping lives in Lodi Township, which contracts with the county sheriff's department to provide local police patrols. Under a four-year contract that expires in 2009, the cost per deputy shot up from $96,000 a year to $142,000—an average annual increase of 12 percent. Next year, though, the cost will rise just 2 percent—thanks to a resolution Ping and her township allies passed in November.

The move left Ann Arbor commissioners seething. "This is a benefit for townships without police forces like Ypsilanti, Superior, and Scio at the expense of the county," asserts Leah Gunn, "and at the expense of those jurisdictions that have their own police forces like Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti City, and Saline." The city commissioners say that even after the recent increases, the townships still aren't paying the true cost of patrols—and that the new resolution will make things worse. Board chair Jeff Irwin says the county's cost to put a deputy on the road is expected to increase by 4 to 4.5 percent next year—leaving a several-hundred-thousand-dollar hole in the sheriff's budget that will probably have to be filled from the general fund.

"There's going to be a human toll for this," predicts Irwin. Barbara Levin Bergman explains that with falling home values cutting into property tax receipts, "we're already being forced to cut be-

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The Zingerman's Times

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Pot Pies are back at the Deli!
See Our special ad in this issue of the Observer!

African-Americans in the White House: The Hidden History of Black Cooks and Presidents, from the Campaign Trail to 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

Zingerman's Roadhouse Special Dinner #69
Wednesday, January 21 @ 7pm
$45 / dinner • Seats are filling fast—call now to reserve! 734.663.3663

Times readers get the scoop on the history of African-American cooks on Pennsylvania Avenue from food writer Adrian Miller (who, it's reported, has been one of Zingerman's secret sources for information on the African American foodways over the years) and they'll taste some of the celebrated dishes from that famous American abode on Chef Alex Young's special menu for the evening.

January Bread of the Month: Paesano – $3.99 (reg. $6.25)

Traditional bread of the Puglia region in Italy, it's great for ripping & dipping in great olive oil! Sources say it goes great with the spicy harissa from the Mahjoubs of Tunisia, available at the Deli!

Zingerman's roadhouse	2501 Jackson Rd. 734.663.FOOD
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Zingerman's Catering and Events	422 Detroit St. 734.663.3400
Zingerman's Bakehouse	3711 Plaza Dr. 734.761.2095
Zingerman's mail order	422 Detroit St. 888.636.8162
ZingTRAIN	PO Box 1837 734.930.1919
Zingerman's Creamery	3723 Plaza Dr. 734.929.0500
Zingerman's Coffee Company	422 Detroit St. 734.929.6060

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comfort food season strikes at zingerman's!!

bacon + chocolate = good gravy!

Scientists have discovered the mathematical formula behind a truly exciting brunch experience is a matter of simple addition: put two fantastic flavors together (bacon and chocolate!) and the sum is a surprisingly special treat for the taste buds.

Times reporters on Ann Arbor's westside confirm Zingerman's Roadhouse is serving up a classic Southern "gravy" made with really good bacon, cocoa powder and milk, generously ladled over Chef Alex's rich homemade buttermilk biscuits.

Experts say that while this hearty, satisfying dish is new to the Roadhouse – it first appeared on the menu this past fall – chocolate gravy made with bacon fat has been around in Appalachia for a long time.

Due to popular demand, sources confirm the Roadhouse chocolate gravy is also being added to the daily breakfast menu at the Roadshow drive-up trailer, for to-go orders or self-service in the Roadhouse bar area on weekdays.

Read more about this new signature item at Zingerman's Roadhouse and check out the full menu at www.zingermansroadhouse.com. Also, look for Ari Weinzweig's *Guide to Great Bacon* book, coming out this spring!

Chocolate and bacon gravy with buttermilk biscuits from Zingerman's Roadhouse makes *Times* readers feel warm and cozy!

zingerman's roadhouse brunch!

Every Saturday and Sunday, 10am-2pm

Old-fashioned stone-ground Irish oatmeal & South Carolina grits, local farm fresh eggs, homemade donuts, oyster hash & more! Call 734.663.3663 for reservations.

don't forget weekday breakfast!

The bar area at Zingerman's Roadhouse opens daily at 7am for self-serve breakfast. Kick off the work day with fresh made pastries, a warm breakfast and locally roasted coffee from the Zingerman's Coffee Company!

harissa hits local deli; record heat reported

Recent weather reports indicate a rise in temperatures at Zingerman's Delicatessen where harissa from the Mahjoub family is spicing up winter eating.

Experts reveal this HOT item on the fiery food front is a very versatile, traditional North African spread made with ground dried red chiles. Those in the know say it's an excellent accompaniment to eggs, potatoes, meat, fish and lots more.

Insiders report the jars of harissa available at the Deli are the recipe of the Mahjoub family, made at their farm in the central part of Tunisia. In addition to harissa and other full flavored sauces, they also send over couscous that caused renowned food writer Paula Wolfert to proclaim, "I entered into a new place in a couscous lover's heaven when I tried the M'hamsa couscous from the Mahjoubs!"

Times readers are urged to read more about these exceptional products at www.zingermansdeli.com and stop in and ask for a taste of each!

roaster's pick goes south of the border for january joe!

Mexican-Pluma Hidalgo

This month's "pick" is grown at high altitude in the volcanic soil of the Sierra Madre region. Experts describe it as a lighter bodied, clean, lively coffee that has an aromatic, fruity fragrance and taste with a clean bright finish. An excellent cup for breakfast, or try it with January's Cake of the Month (see below)!

creamery mozzarella classes make a comeback

In response to demands from local cheese enthusiasts, Zingerman's Creamery is inviting the public to learn how to prepare fresh, handmade mozzarella.

During this two-hour class, participants will not only learn about the nuances of mozzarella, but will prepare it two different ways, from milk and from curd.

Upcoming sessions are slated for January 4, 11,18, 25, noon to 2pm and cost $45 each. Space in these classes is limited, so call the Creamery Cheese Shop and reserve a spot. (734) 929-0500.

white chocolate chiffon cake commotion!

20% OFF the price of whole cakes and slices at Zingerman's Bakehouse and Deli Next Door Cafe through January

Light and creamy, featuring layers of yellow chiffon cake sandwiched with white chocolate mousse and Italian raspberry preserves. It's all covered in fresh whipped cream and white chocolate shavings.

tween thirty and forty general-fund positions. This'll just make it thirty-five or forty-five."

Complicating everything, the two sides can't agree on what a deputy's time is worth. "The direct cost is one hundred thousand including fringes," says Manchester Village president Pat Vailliencourt, while commissioner Ken Schwartz, who represents northeastern Washtenaw, maintains "the actual cost is $136,845—in other words, less than the $137,000 we're paying [in 2008]."

"He's wrong," retorts Ann Arbor's Gunn. "It's more like one hundred and ninety thousand. In 1998 I asked for a very detailed cost breakdown for the deputies plus all the costs of everything else except corrections prorated across the department. And what I found out is the numbers are what they are, the cost is what it is, and you can't deny it."

Into this already heated discussion, county administrator Bob Guenzel dropped a bombshell: he now calculates the full annual cost at $243,825. He explains that while the township reps are citing salary expenses, "the higher number is what it costs us to put a deputy on the road fully loaded, plus a portion of the costs of running a police department, excluding correction."

Guenzel hopes a committee can resolve the cost dispute this year. But the townships' preemptive strike means that the bargain 2 percent rate is already locked into next year's budget.

Actually, some of the township reps wanted to lock the rate in for *two* years. Ann Arbor commissioners credit Conan Smith, of northwest Ann Arbor, with curbing the damage: he voted for the limited rate increase in exchange for the shorter term.

"Conan played an important part in reducing it from two years to one year," says Bergman. "This way it's a one-year screw, not a two-year screw. So I guess we have to be grateful."

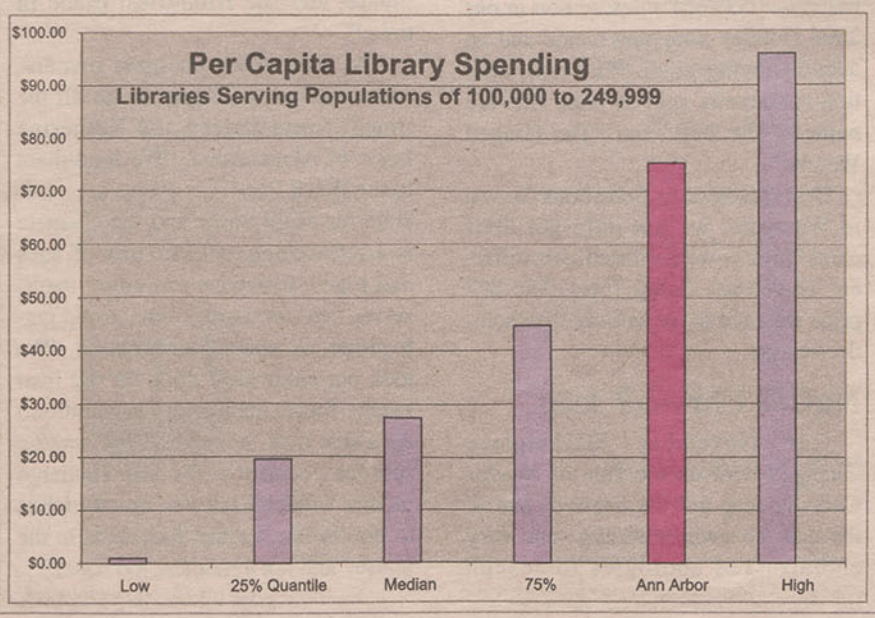
question corner

Q: How much does Ann Arbor spend on its public library, compared with other cities of the same size?

A: According to the Public Library Data Service Statistical Report 2007, of the twenty libraries serving populations of 150,000 to 170,000, Ann Arbor's had the second-largest budget.

The bar graph below shows per-capita spending at 215 libraries serving populations of 100,000 to 249,999. Ann Arbor spent $75.40 per person—much closer to the high end of $95.75 in Naperville, Illinois, than to the low end of 95¢ in Howe, Texas.

Got a question? Email question@aaobserver.com.



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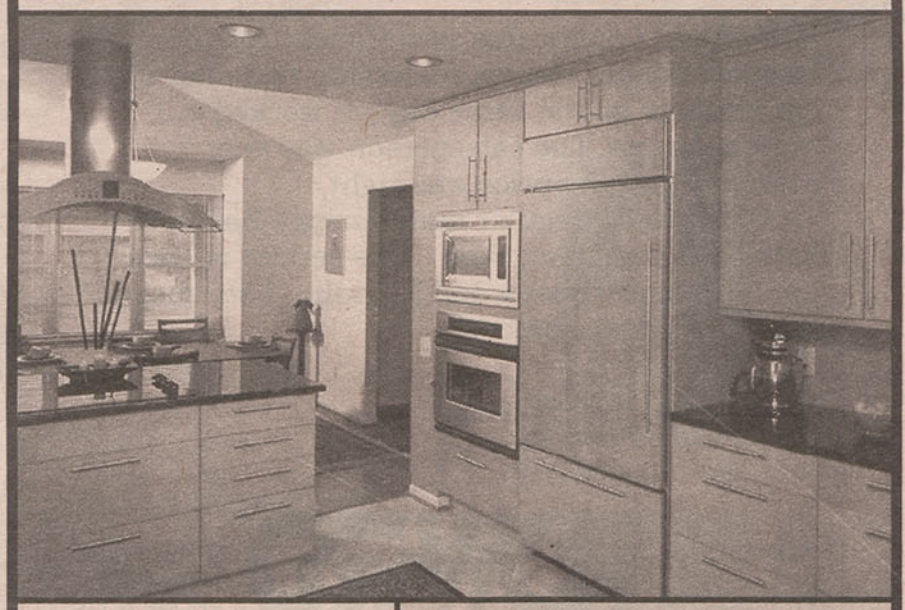

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Swift Run Park, at the corner of Platt and East Ellsworth Roads, *January only.*

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"The sheriff's department itself needs to be substantially revamped," says Smith. "I thought this would give sheriff-elect Jerry Clayton time to really get in there and understand his budget without having the police service contracts hanging over his head."

Clayton says he appreciates the extra time—and hopes to use it to ease the friction. "My team and I will get in there, and once we really understand the budget, we'll take it on the road," promises the burly sheriff-elect. "We'll take it to Scio and to Superior and to Ypsilanti Township—where I live, by the way—and we'll have town meetings where we'll explain to the people, and, more importantly, we'll listen to the people.

"Everybody knows we need to collaborate, and if there's good will now and we show leadership, we can get the parties to agree," Clayton predicts. "Of course, that means everybody gives a little, but if everybody does, I believe we can get a contract that's fair to everybody."

calls & letters

No conflict of interest

To the Observer:

The article titled "The Pentagon's Pet Projects" in your November 2008 issue incorrectly suggests that as Chief Scientist of the U.S. Air Force I will be directing research funds to the University of Michigan. The writer of that article never contacted me. If he had I would have clarified his misunderstanding of the defense science research funding process and the role of the Air Force Chief Scientist in it. The Chief Scientist is the principal science and technology advisor to the senior Air Force leadership, and thus is far removed from the minutiae of directing funds for individual research projects. Moreover, there are effective legal protections in place to ensure that those who serve in such a position are free from conflicts of interest. Your article did a disservice to readers by suggesting otherwise.

Sincerely,
Dr. Werner J. A. Dahm
Chief Scientist, U.S. Air Force

We certainly didn't mean to suggest that Dr. Dahm might inappropriately steer research grants to the university. As we wrote, Michigan's prospects for future funding look secure thanks to "its long history of research and its current plethora of projects."

Holiday Guide corrections

A sharp-eyed reader noticed a contradiction between a description in our 2008 Holiday Shopping Guide and an accompanying photo. The reproduction corkscrews sold at Wine Etc. are named "The Bell" and "The Hinged Wonder."

Our apologies to Scrapbook Haven in Westgate: we not only got their name wrong, we confused two different Travelmate Scrap Totes. The $67 price we cited is for an over-the-shoulder version.

Naylor Chrysler Jeep

Our November Marketplace Changes item on the sale of Naylor Chrysler Jeep got the name of one of the new co-owners wrong: our very embarrassed apologies to Joseph Gilmour. Co-owner Dr. Benn Gilmore told us of the mistake—and also corrected our explanation of how he came to own an auto dealership instead of working on Christian medical missions. The problem, Gilmore explained, was not that the work itself was scarce but that an enormous amount of infrastructure would have been required to support the monthly missions he'd hoped for—"too much to ask of the places I targeted."

Fans of the Black Pearl

After we gave the Black Pearl Seafood & Martini Bar a mixed review in December, we heard from many diners who'd had better experiences. Dr. Jay Sandweiss praised the "friendly, warm, and welcoming" staff, shared a long roster of favorite dishes ("house salad with wasabi dressing followed by Chilean sea bass, salmon, or tuna are dinner delights"), and added a good word for the "wonderful martinis."

Businessman John Kusava singled out the lake perch for special praise: "Whatever concoction of dustings, herbal magic, and swift cooking went into this humble plate of lake fish, stacked tepee style around an adjoining medley of potato and sautéed spinach, I can only say that it has catapulted competing offers from Real Seafood, La Dolce Vita, and the rest of the Main Street dining establishment off the big board forever."

"I love this place!" wrote Borders CEO George Jones. "Great food, live music, and the friendliest place in town!"

"As downtown business owners, customers ask us where to eat all the time," wrote Steven and Katherine Lesse of Abracadabra. "We send them to the Black Pearl. . . . Prices are moderate for Main Street and the clientele is a refreshingly eclectic mix of ages and types. Everyone can enjoy themselves here for a quick bite, group get-together, or raucous celebration. (We took our entire staff there for our own twenty-fourth anniversary celebration.) As a side note, it is the perfect waiting spot for a concert at the Ark. The large picture windows tell you exactly when to hop in line for the 'best seats in the house,' and not a moment too soon!"

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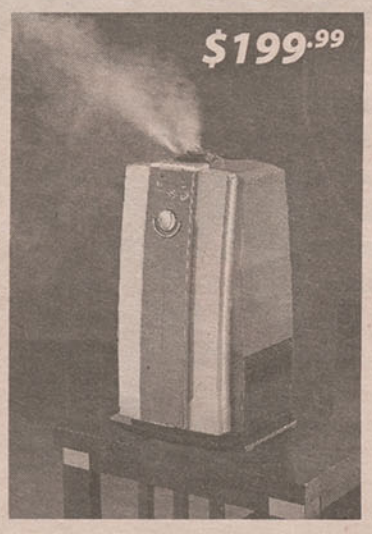

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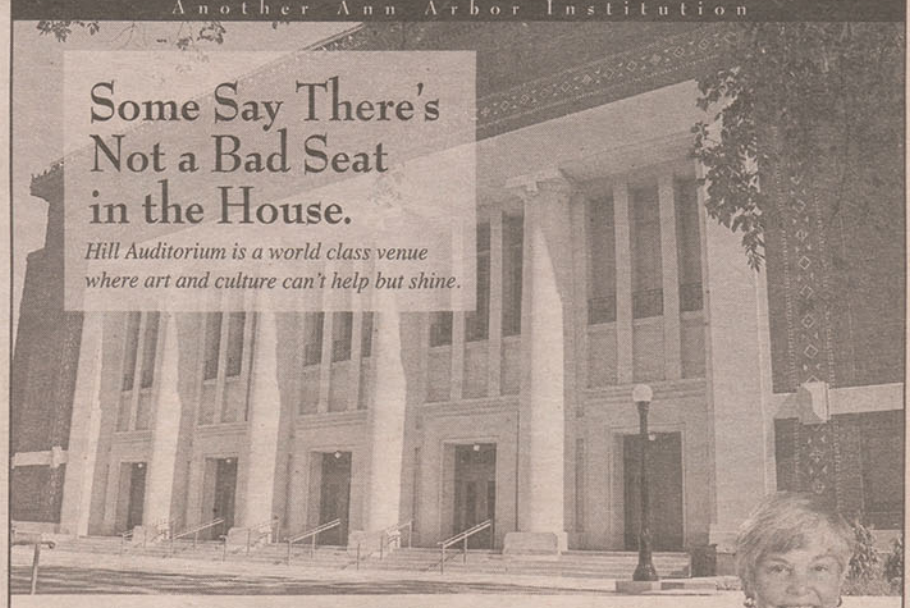

Some Say There's Not a Bad Seat in the House.

Hill Auditorium is a world class venue where art and culture can't help but shine.

From its resplendent architecture to its shimmering acoustics, Hill Auditorium offers Ann Arbor an exceptional setting for prestigious musicians, speakers and performers. Some suggest there isn't a "bad seat in the house." Carolyn Lepard couldn't agree more. Like many other Ann Arbor arts patrons, she feels fortunate to have such an impressive venue in her beloved city. With its renovations completed, Hill Auditorium is—and will be—an Ann Arbor institution rich in tradition and culture for years.

As passionate as Carolyn is about supporting the arts in this great city, she's even more passionate about her career as one of Ann Arbor's premier real estate professionals. In fact, she's helped so many families find The Spirit of Ann Arbor, she's become somewhat of an institution here herself. Carolyn Lepard is the ideal Realtor® to help you make the most of your real estate needs. Call her today.

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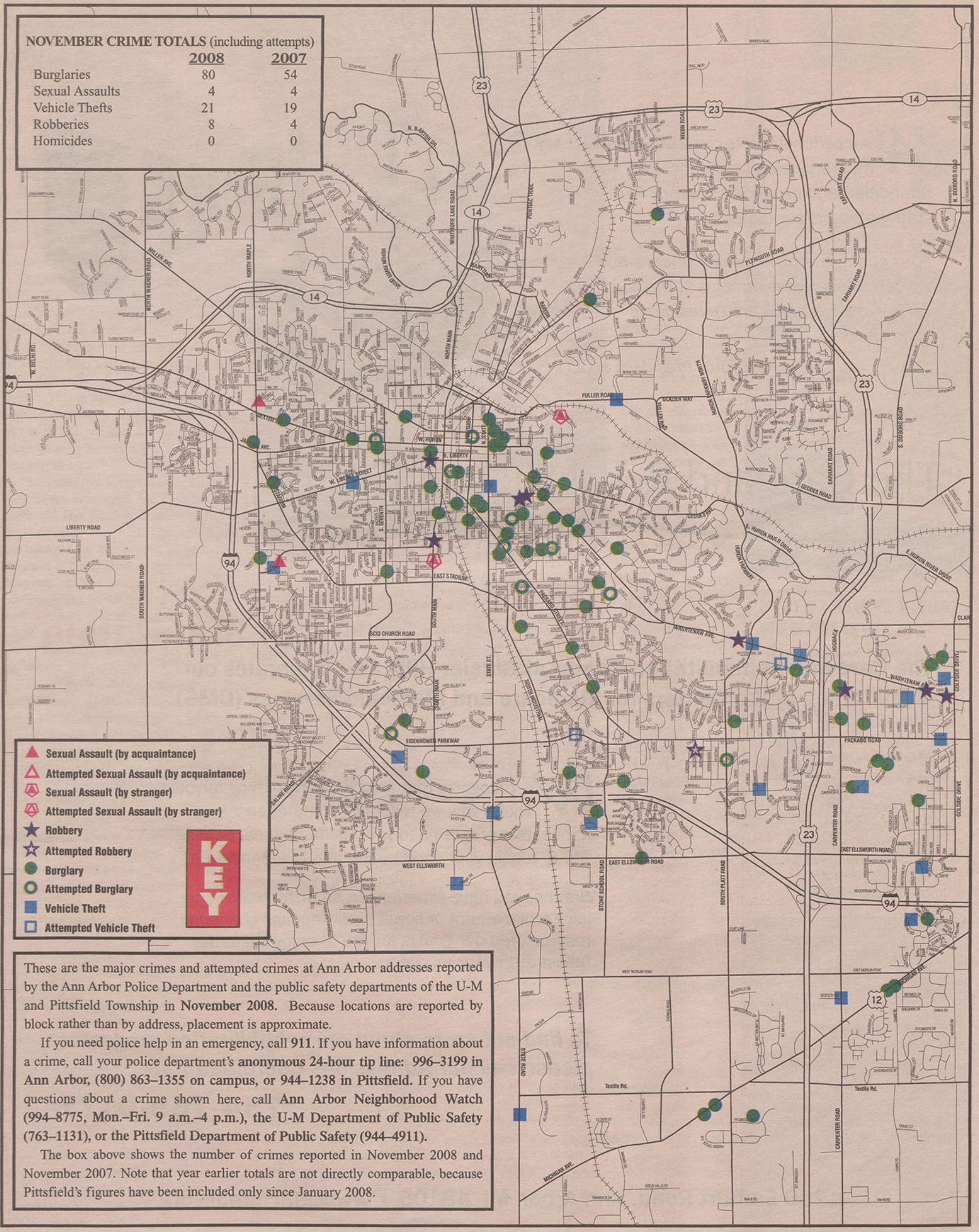
CrimeMap

NOVEMBER CRIME TOTALS (including attempts)

	2008	2007
Burglaries	80	54
Sexual Assaults	4	4
Vehicle Thefts	21	19
Robberies	8	4
Homicides	0	0



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **November 2008.** Because locations are reported by block rather than by address, placement is approximate.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911**. If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line: 996–3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863–1355 on campus, or 944–1238 in Pittsfield.** If you have questions about a crime shown here, call **Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994–8775, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763–1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944–4911).**

The box above shows the number of crimes reported in November 2008 and November 2007. Note that year earlier totals are not directly comparable, because Pittsfield's figures have been included only since January 2008.

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Bookseller Bill Gillmore

A timeless business changed by the Internet

"I can't imagine doing anything else," Bill Gillmore says without lifting his eyes from the stack of books he's sorting at his Liberty Street store, the Dawn Treader Book Shop. "But that isn't really a very satisfactory description of how I got here, and it is a bit clichéd."

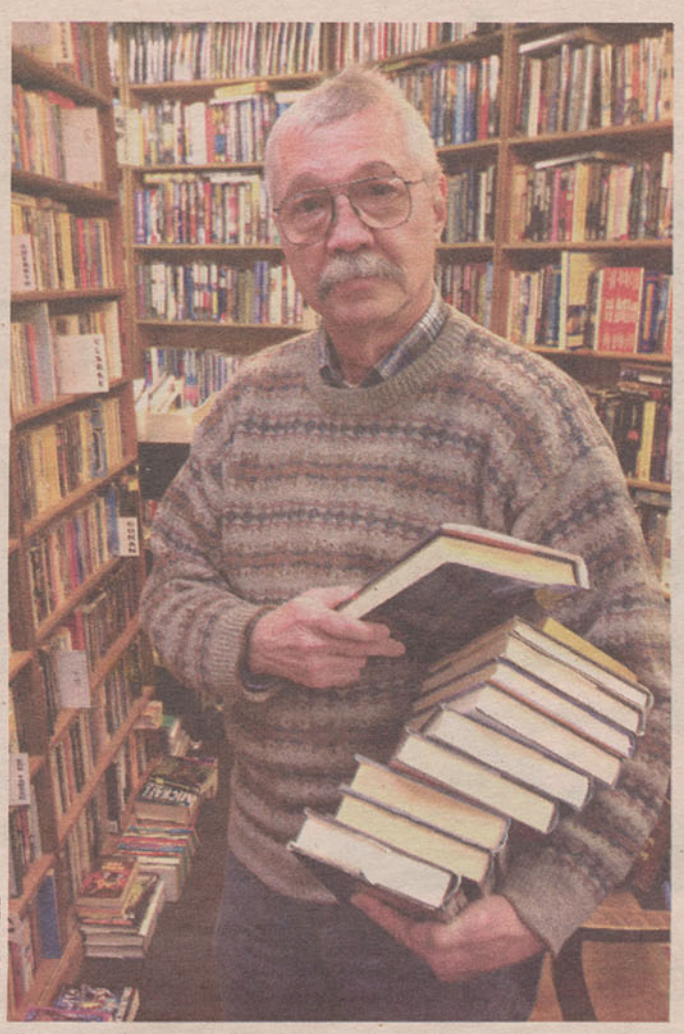
Gillmore's tweed jacket is too large, his white hair is disheveled, and his large glasses make his eyes resemble an owl's. "I started out as a bookbinder, and one day a new guy bought the building I was in," he recalls. "He came into my store and scowled." Gillmore scrunches up his own face. " 'This is like a factory,' the owner says. 'This is not in keeping with the spirit of our building. Either get some kind of retail outlet in here or we're not going to renew your lease.'

"So, under that kind of duress, I moved most of my equipment into my garage at home and kept just a little space so that I could do restoration work. I brought in all my books from home—not all of them, but most of them. I had so few that everything was shelved face out. I took out an advertisement in the Yellow Pages that said 'We buy books.' The next thing I knew, the bookstore started taking up much of my time and providing much of my income."

The Dawn Treader opened in 1977 in the basement of the Michigan Theater, across the street from its present location. "I came to Ann Arbor for grad school [in sociology], long after college and travel courtesy of the United States Marine Corps," he explains. He spent part of that time in Vietnam, but he doesn't dwell on the subject—except to observe, "Military discipline and I were not good buddies." He didn't get along well with grad school either, so "I got a job in a bookbindery in Dexter, Michigan. I worked there until I figured I could do it by myself, and then I started my own business."

The aroma of lilac incense mingles with the musty smell of old books as he continues to sort and price recent acquisitions. Although the Dawn Treader appears to be the archetypal used-book store that transcends time itself, Gillmore says the Internet "has changed everything" about the business. "There is no more local scarcity," he explains. "It used to be that if you had the only copy of a book available in Ann Arbor you could ask a fairly substantial price on it, but now you can go on the Internet and see thirty more. The Internet has made the expertise of experience not irrelevant but insignificant."

Gillmore's regulars might disagree. They include half a dozen people who peruse New Age books at least twice a week,



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"It used to be that if you had the only copy of a book available in Ann Arbor you could ask a fairly substantial price on it," Gillmore explains. "But now you can go on the Internet and see thirty more. The Internet has made the expertise of experience not irrelevant but insignificant."

he says, and two individuals who come every day "and seem to look at everything." A consistently popular section is science fiction—Gillmore boasts that "in terms of diversity of titles," he has "the most extensive science fiction section in the state of Michigan."

Gillmore's son, Corby, is the manager of the store, which also employs five part-timers. Even in the best of times, the Dawn Treader is not a get-rich business. "I would say that over the course of my career I have averaged between twenty-five and thirty thousand a year," Gillmore says. "In fact, I've had years when I didn't make ten."

Sixty-five and long widowed, Gillmore lives on the northeast side of town. He says his own reading tastes lean toward science fiction and mysteries—he's "even written some of my own fan fiction regarding Sherlock Holmes." But for his customers, he says, "I am happy no matter what books they purchase. It is better to be reading than not to be reading. Harlequin romances—bless their hearts, people read them, and they read them voraciously. I am happier that those people enjoy reading Harlequins more than watching soap operas."

He also gets a kick out of learning new things from customers: "[Ann Arbor] is so full of people who know things that I can talk to them and learn from them, and I do it all the time. I'll ask people what they are doing and then I'll ask them about it.

"Some of them don't want to talk about it, but some of them don't mind giving what amounts to introductory lectures in their field. One guy that comes in a lot likes to talk about astronomy. So we talk about astronomy all the time."

A young woman peers around a large stack of books. "So did I just overhear that you are involved in this series of lectures on all different topics?"

"Well, I was just saying that I like to ask my customers what they are interested in and learn from them," replies Gillmore.

"Oh! That's what I like about Ann Arbor," she agrees. "You can find people who know things about anything here."

"And know a lot," Gillmore adds.

They continue to talk as the woman makes her way to the front of the store to pay for her purchase. "There isn't a price in this book," she points out to the cashier.

"I'll charge you two fifty," the cashier says.

"Well, that's very nice of you," the woman replies.

"No, you won't," Gillmore tells the cashier. "You will make it three fifty."

"Why would this be three fifty?" the cashier demands.

"Make it two fifty," Gillmore groans, conceding.

He ends up walking out the door with the customer, talking about everything from movies that misrepresent books to Angelina Jolie's inability to act. When they eventually manage to separate. Gillmore heads around the corner to buy coffee at Cafe Ambrosia, where, he says, "Ann Arbor's real artists hang out." The young woman heads back to her apartment to read her book.

—Jessica Stokes

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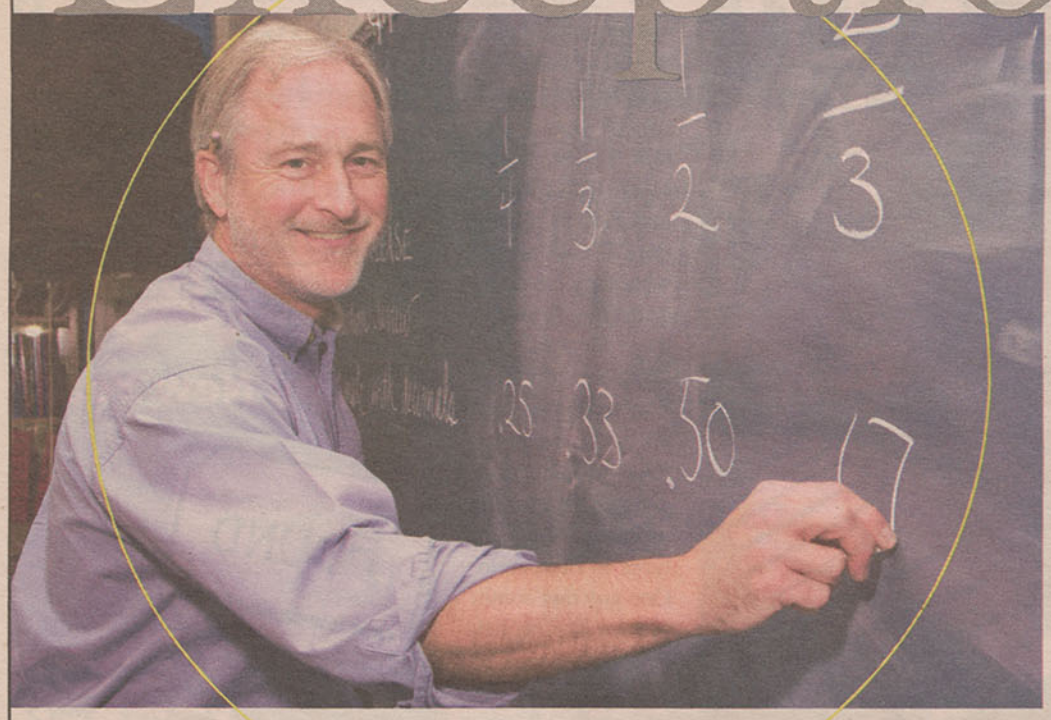

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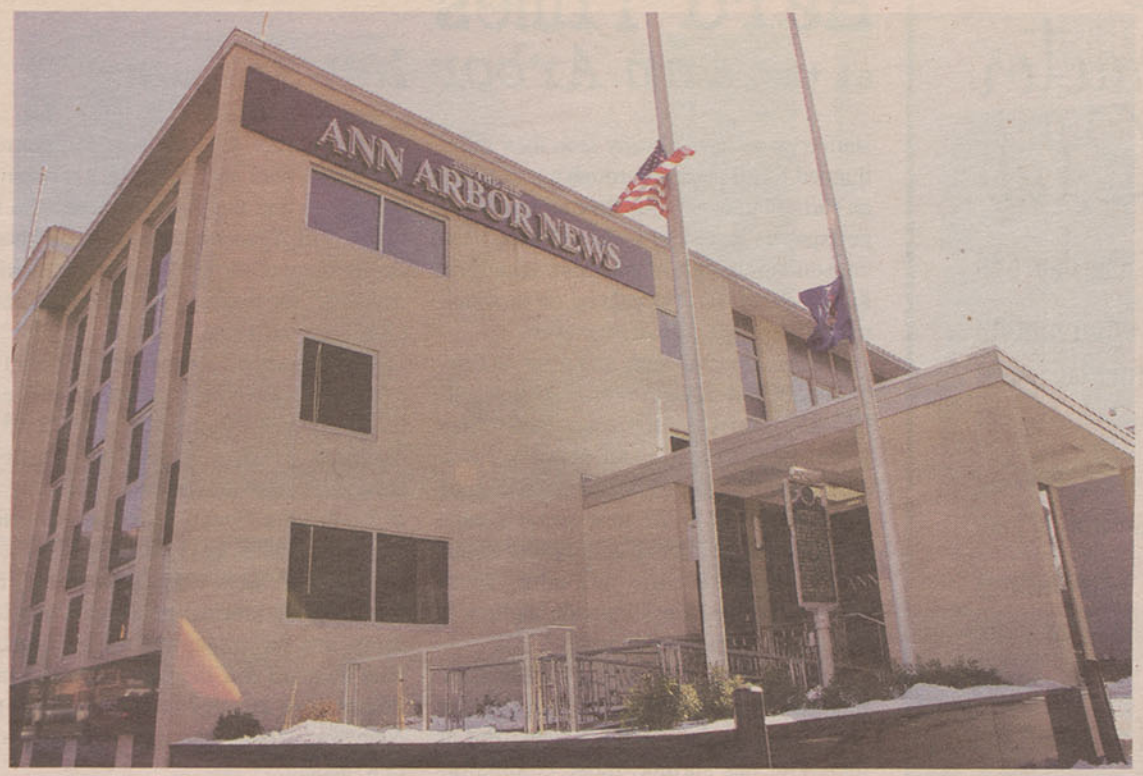

GRIFFIN REAMES

Hard Times at the Ann Arbor News

Just a few years ago, the city's daily newspaper was growing fast. Now it's shrinking even faster.

by Vickie Elmer

For most of this decade, the *Ann Arbor News* spent money freely—even as it lost readers. Ann Arbor's daily paper spent $14 million to build new presses in Pittsfield Township. It launched a Livingston County edition, expanded its Ypsilanti office, and created the weekly *Business Review*.

"They have not been cheap with money," recalls Jim Carty, until recently the paper's star sportswriter. Besides the new presses, he says, the paper invested in renovating "the entire downtown offices."

The *News* flew Carty to the Gulf Coast to write about a Michigan football player who lost his home in Hurricane Katrina, and to New England to interview former athletes about their academic experiences. He recalls the "hundreds of hours of overtime" invested in that series on athletics and academics, and big bills to acquire documents from the university.

But recently the *Ann Arbor News* hit the brakes—hard. It not only stopped spending money but started slashing staff and other expenses. Staff lists show that between 2004 and 2008 the newsroom headcount fell by more than 30 percent, from 107 to 73 people.

More cuts are coming: this spring, at least eighteen graphic artists, copy editors, and others will have to choose between buyouts and moving to Grand Rapids, where a central staff will now handle those functions for the *News* and seven other Michigan papers.

In December employees faced an end-of-year deadline to decide whether to take the buyout or take their chances in an uncertain future. "It's like going to a funeral every day going to your job," says one copy editor who expects to leave. This person, who asked not to be named, says the *News* is "a very sad and fearful place right now."

What went wrong? *News* publisher Laurel Champion politely declined to comment, and editor Ed Petykiewicz has ignored repeated emails and phone calls from the *Observer*. But in a front-page column in December, Petykiewicz wrote that the *News* is "coming to grips with the same economic forces that triggered downsizings by local companies." While putting a positive spin on the paper's plan to emphasize more local news, he acknowledged that in the future the paper will have fewer staffers and fewer pages. "The timing of these changes is triggered by the recession," Petykiewicz wrote, "which is choking the economy and hurting our advertisers."

An *Observer* comparison of a Friday and Sunday edition from early December over several years confirms that. The *News* has suffered a sharp decline in advertising, especially from auto dealers and from companies that place help-wanted classified ads. "Every paper is suffering from the craigslist effect," says Carty, referring to the free online classifieds website. On the first Sunday in December 2000, the *News* carried forty pages of classifieds. By 2006 the classifieds for that same Sunday had shrunk to twenty-six pages. And this past December 7, the paper had just fourteen pages of classifieds—a decline of 65 percent since 2000.

Publisher Laurel Champion's statement that the News *has too many reporters and photographers appalled some newsroom staffers, who have already seen their ranks thinned by 30 percent.*

Like other newspapers throughout the country, the *News* also has suffered as national chains replace local stores. Giant retailers like Kohl's, Target, and Best Buy don't buy ads inside the paper, instead producing their own "preprints." The *News* gets a small fee for delivering these circulars, but they contribute little if anything to the news-gathering operation—which may explain why, on December 7, they outweighed news sections by three to one.

It doesn't help that many fewer people are reading the paper. According to the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the *News*'s daily circulation fell from 57,000 in 2000 to just over 47,000 last spring—a decline of 17 percent. The Sunday paper slipped more than 20 percent, from 72,000 copies to 57,000. And a disproportionate share of that drop was in Ann Arbor—the *News*'s city-zone Sunday circulation fell 12 percent from March 2006 to March 2008, more than double the declines in Livingston County and outlying Washtenaw County.

To be sure, other publications are shrinking too—from Detroit's *News* and *Free Press* to the *Ann Arbor Observer*. On December 16 the *Free Press* and the *News* announced plans to cut home delivery to three days a week, and offer more news on their websites and through newsstand sales. The changes will mean a 9 percent reduction in the workforce of 2,100, but Detroit Media Partnership CEO Dave Hunke says the newsroom will be spared job reductions this time. (It has gone through several buyouts in recent years.) The *Observer,* which is mailed free to every permanent household in Ann Arbor, will cut its circulation by almost 10 percent in February by dropping distribution to area hotels and some near-campus apartments. The quarterly *Community Observer* will end home delivery in Manchester, reducing its circulation by about 5 percent.

Editor John Hilton says both publications saw ad sales fall 10 percent last year—and then another 10 percent going into 2009. Because the magazines get nearly all their revenue from advertising, issues have always grown or shrunk with ad sales. But in November, for the first time, the company also had to lay off an employee, a part-time calendar editor who worked on the *Community Observer.*

"It's a difficult time for our advertisers, and we're sharing their pain," says Hilton. "We've seen a lot of clients reduce the amount of advertising they buy, and some eliminate it completely—or even go out of business."

The News announced its own cutbacks in November, in a four-paragraph brief inside its business section. Some say the same announcement—with a different publisher's name inserted—appeared in all eight Booth newspapers in Michigan.

Websites run by former *News* staffers carried more details. Mary Morgan's annarborchronicle.com and Jim Carty's blog, Paper Tiger No More, reported that the papers were offering six months' severance pay to staffers with five or more years of experience. Publisher Laurel Champion reportedly told the staff that the paper sees this as a matter of survival and that they should expect more cutbacks ahead.

Champion's statement that the *News* has too many reporters and photographers appalled some newsroom

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Hard Times
at the Ann Arbor News *continued*

staffers, who have already seen their ranks thinned by 30 percent through attrition and an earlier buyout. While they all knew that newspapers generally were suffering, "the consolidations are much more than anything I could have speculated on or anticipated," says one former employee.

Beside reducing staff and printing fewer copies, the *News* has shrunk physically—it's printed on narrower paper than just a few years ago, and in fewer sections. And some editors and outsiders predict the next reduction in the newspaper's page count will be dramatic—including eliminating more sections and using more pages produced for statewide audiences and shared with other papers.

In Ann Arbor, as in many other communities, griping about the local paper is almost a sport for some residents. But as the *News* has shrunk, those complaints have grown louder.

Washtenaw County commissioner Leah Gunn, a *News* reader for almost forty years, is angry that the paper no longer routinely reports on meetings of the board of commissioners. "We get no coverage at all any more," Gunn says of the board, which oversees a $200 million annual budget. "We used to have a reporter assigned."

Mary Morgan, who left in August after twelve years as business editor and then opinion and editorials editor, points out some of the challenges the paper faces in deciding how to deploy its shrinking staff. "When I was at the *Ann Arbor News* we were always trying to figure out what the readers might want," Morgan recalls. "It was difficult, because the core Ann Arbor readership was very different from what people out in Lodi Township wanted." She says the paper's top editors preached that readers wanted short stories and more entertainment and consumer stories, so the *News* gradually moved away from covering government meetings.

Morgan's online *Ann Arbor Chronicle* now reports on many meetings of public bodies, including the Downtown Development Authority, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, and the county board of commissioners. At these meetings, she told a freelance writers' group in December, she sees reporters for the *Michigan Daily*, radio stations, and the *Ypsilanti Citizen*. Only after being prompted did she add that she "sometimes runs into" a *News* reporter.

Morgan declined to discuss the changes in the *News* with the *Observer*. But in a column in the *Chronicle*, Morgan wrote that she was surprised by the "floodgates" of ill will toward the paper that she encountered after she left. And she worried about how staff cuts will affect her former colleagues and the paper. "Those who remain at the *News* are burdened with shouldering more of the load, both for gathering news and for reaching out to the community," Morgan wrote.

Art Gallagher sees the changes from an even longer-term perspective: he was editor of the *News* from 1954 to 1976. "The *News* has grown so much," he points out. It now covers many areas—including all of Livingston County—that were outside its purview when he ran the paper.

Gallagher says today's paper still has lots of good stories; he singles out features, arts coverage, and some columns. And he notes that the paper now can pick and choose articles to reprint from the *New York Times* and many other major newspapers.

Bob Faber, though, says the paper's current managers seem arrogant and aloof; he says he seldom sees them at public forums or events. A retired retailer who served on the Ann Arbor City Council in the 1960s and 1970s, Faber says a local newspaper ought to be "a unifying force," a place where issues are debated and illuminated. Yet when the *News* published an op-ed piece he wrote, he says, none of his friends at his book club or in his golf and poker groups commented on it—because "nobody had seen it."

"'It's like going to a funeral every day going to your job,' says one copy editor who expects to leave. This person, who asked not to be named, says the News *is 'a very sad and fearful place right now.'"*

Paul Courant, the U-M's university librarian and former provost, has read the *Ann Arbor News* for thirty-five years—along with the *New York Times*, the *Michigan Daily*, and, more recently, "all sorts of things online." Courant says the *News*'s coverage of the university, business, and finance has slipped, and he says he sees "a lot of reporting by press release"—stories based on handouts from groups seeking publicity.

"They don't do local news very well," says Courant. But he does admire the paper's sports coverage and what he calls the "dear Ann Arbor town" stories. And Courant thinks the focus on sports—from Michigan football to high school hockey teams—may be a smart strategy.

While other departments' staffs and space for stories have shrunk considerably in recent years, the sports section seems unscathed. Jim Carty says that when he left the *News* in October to attend law school, the paper had an opportunity to cut back on its U-M sports coverage—but instead has continued to send two writers to away football and basketball games. "Michigan football is very important to them," says Carty.

MARK BIALEK

MARK BIALEK

Former sportswriter Jim Carty is convinced that dig-deep reports like the one on student athletes are gone at the News. *Carty himself left the paper last fall—he's now a law student at the University of Toledo.*

As the buyout deadline approached in December, the *News* staff fell into three camps—those who are definitely leaving and already planning their lives and careers outside the newspaper business; those who are undecided; and those who want to hang in and hope for the best. "If you do not leave or move, they will transfer you," the copy editor says. "There's a lot of people who are throwing up their hands and saying 'I have to get out of here.' These people don't know what they're doing."

News staffers don't need to look far to imagine the worst that could happen. The planned publication cutbacks in Detroit are bad enough—but the recent bankruptcy filing of the Tribune Company was downright terrifying. In addition to its flagship *Chicago Tribune,* the company also owns the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Baltimore Sun.*

The Tribune Company, however, is an extreme case: a recent buyout had left it with huge debts. The Michigan Booth papers, in contrast, have been owned by the Newhouse family's Advance Publications for generations. Booth "is struggling, as is every newspaper across the country," says Jane Briggs-Bunting, director of the MSU School of Journalism. But Briggs-Bunting points out that Advance has not made any big purchases in recent years and so should have a stronger financial base to weather the economic storm.

Booth's plan to centralize copy editing and ad and page layout will create huge headaches—but if the company can make it work, the cost savings could be considerable. And this may be only the first step: some suspect that in time the eight Booth papers might share more staff as well.

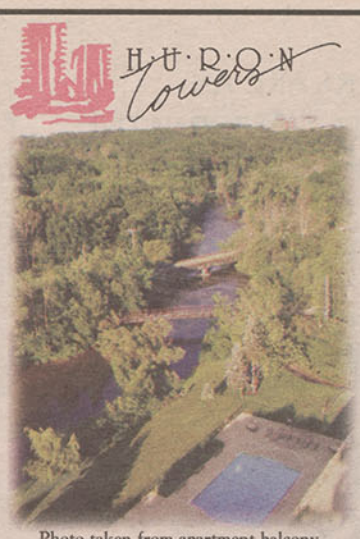
Meanwhile, though, Booth's local publications continue to shrink. It's consolidated staff at its weekly *Business Review,* where editor Paula Gardner now oversees both the Ann Arbor and Oakland County editions. And even after a 30 percent cutback, the Ann Arbor newsroom looks robust compared to the Ypsilanti office. Four years ago, two dozen people worked there. In November just five were left, and the last two writers were already splitting their time between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor.

The office closed entirely as the first snow fell. Announcing the closing, editor Petykiewicz wrote that the paper's "commitment to covering news in Ypsilanti is as strong as ever." But from now on, that coverage will be done from the Ann Arbor newsroom.

News editors and designers spent much of 2008 considering ways to further shrink the paper, reducing the number of pages while preserving the articles and features readers value most. Candidates for consolidation are said to include state and national politics, world news, and entertainment news, though it's possible Booth may try it on some sports and business coverage too. And the *News* may eliminate some sections and some less popular features soon.

"It will be a very different newspaper," predicts —"a considerably smaller newspaper," with fewer writers and photographers. And Carty is convinced that dig-deep reports like the one on student athletes are gone at the *News*. In his last year there he started seeing some tightening, and he foresees many more reductions, especially as the buyouts take effect in coming months.

Carty expects a "significant amount of people" to leave, partly because the buyouts are open to so many employees, and partly out of fear that they if they stay, they may end up working in Saginaw or Grand Rapids. Like him, many of them are considering a future outside newspapers—especially when it feels as though staying in the business will ask more from them and offer less. It's a sad story, even before the ending is in sight. ■



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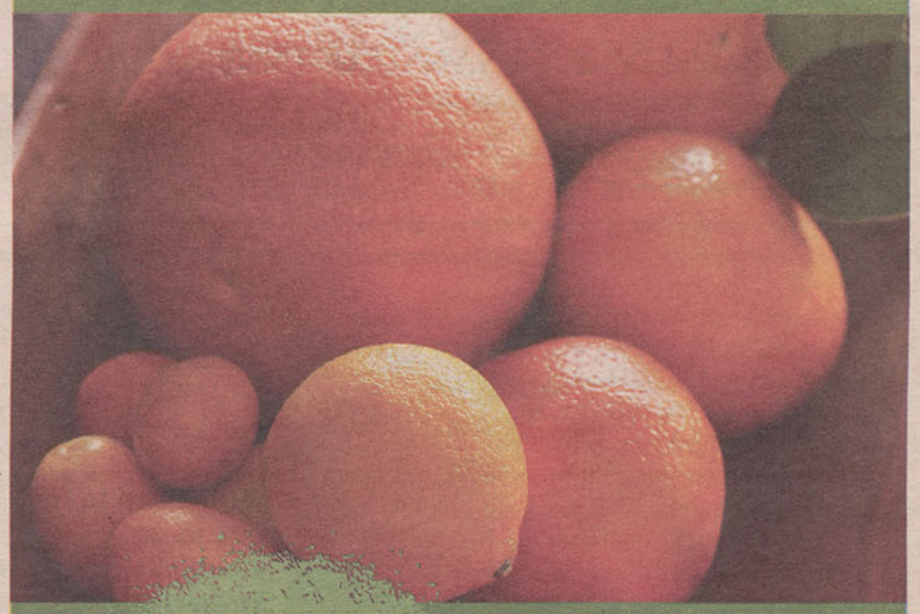

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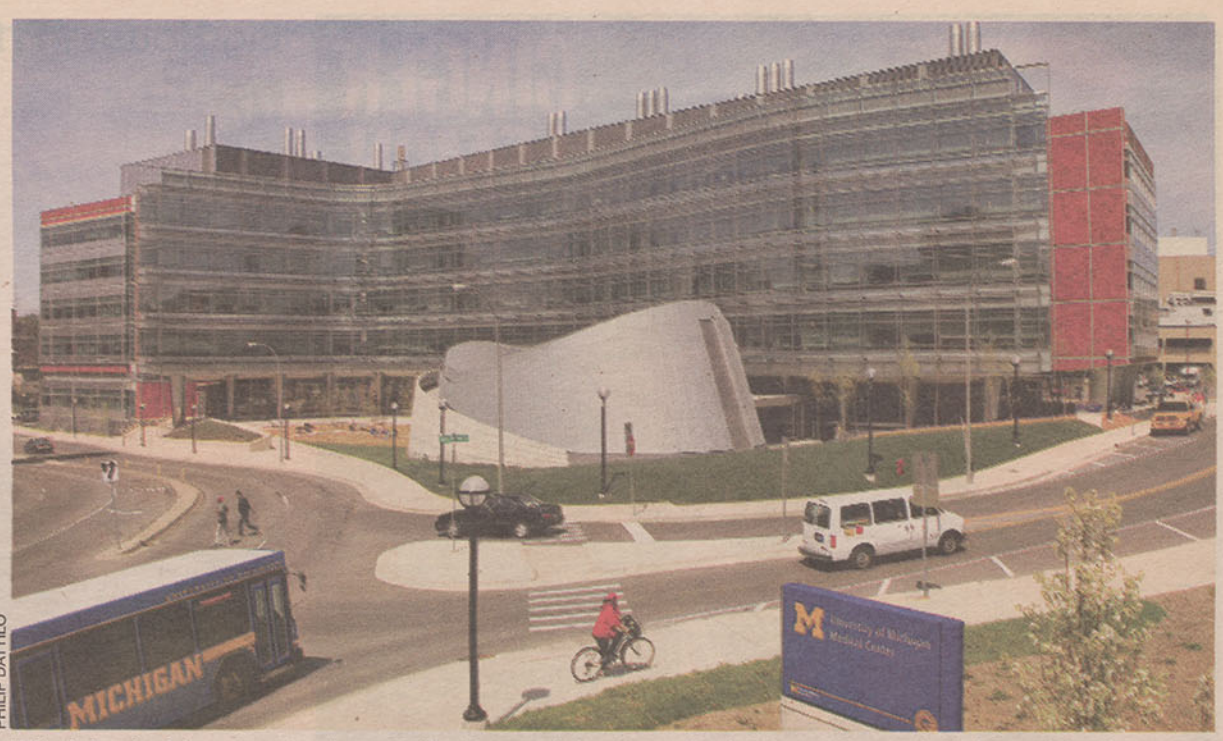
Boos for the Big House, Praise for the Pringle

Architects critique the U-M campus.



PHILIP DATTILO

"I find that building inspiring," says Mike Quinn of the Biomedical Science Research Building. "It's elegant, exciting, forward looking, and a great example of a nationally important building right here in Ann Arbor."

by James Leonard

Last month we asked six local architects to evaluate downtown's newest buildings. This month they turn their eyes to the U-M campus. Campus buildings earned some of our panel's harshest criticism—and their highest praise.

The quarter-billion-dollar expansion of **Michigan Stadium** crowns Fielding Yost's historic hole in the ground with eighty-three sky box suites and 3,000 club seats. Perhaps unsurprisingly, this was the project that garnered the most vitriol.

John Mouat's first reaction to the stadium renovation is nostalgia for the original Big House. "Twenty years ago, you barely knew it was there," he recalls fondly. "You walked up to it and you didn't really see anything. And then you entered it, and it was this huge bowl! It was really impressive—and unique."

His own firm, Mitchell and Mouat, successfully combined traditional and modern elements in its designs for the Washtenaw County Administration Building and the Fourth and Washington parking structure. But remaking the stadium, Mouat says, was "a no-win situation. If it was radical, people would have fried them. If it was conservative, people would say they're not radical enough. They're trying to bridge that. Whether they'll succeed, I don't know."

When it comes to the stadium, Mouat's willingness to suspend judgment is as good as it gets. "It's hideous, pompous, and pretentious," says Carl Luckenbach, emphasizing each word. "It's brutal monumentalism run rampant." The architect of the Pittsfield and Malletts Creek branch libraries particularly deplores the "appalling pseudo-Colosseum archways on Main Street. You half expect Christians to be fed to the lions during halftime."

"It was a huge, huge mistake to change the design of the stadium," laments retired U-M architecture and urban planning dean Bob Beckley. "And the tragedy is that they had the opportunity to make a distinctive building. While a big part of the old stadium's genius was its lightness, the additions make it look massive and heavy." Beckley pays the project the ultimate M-go-Blue insult: "They're making it look more like the Ohio State stadium, which can't be their intention—can it?"

Most of the architects also abhor **202 South Thayer.** Opened in 2006, the six-floor office building at Thayer and Washington went up literally in the shadow of the likewise almost unanimously abominated Corner House Lofts.

"I find that building very disappointing," says Luckenbach with a glint of anger in his eyes, "but more for what it says about the university than for the building itself. It shows the university doesn't care about its impact on neighborhoods, that it's not high on their priority list—that they may not even have a priority list."

"I don't like that building," concurs Marc Rueter with a slight shudder. Rueter, who has designed dozens of small-scale residential and commercial projects around town, says 202 Thayer "has a real mean streak. There's not enough glazing, and it's unpleasant to walk past."

"It's so ugly you might say the virtue of Corner House Lofts is that it hides that building," laughs Bob Beckley. "But, seriously, it looks like it got lost in committee—like the university kept beating the architects down until they finally said 'Let's just do it, collect our check, and get out of town.'"

Mike Quinn, of nationally known restoration masters Quinn Evans | Architects, can't suppress a sigh when asked about 202 Thayer: "Oh, boy. One of the bad things about Corner House Lofts is that it empowered the university to make a building just as tall right next to it. As for the building, the facade could have been more exciting with more detailing and windows. I find the entire building lacking in vision."

"In general, the university does high-quality projects," says John Mouat. "But not here. This looks like something put up in a hurry with a low budget."

Only Roy Strickland, who directs the U-M's program in urban design, has kind words for 202 Thayer—and even he hopes it will fade from view. "It's a good corner building," he says. "And when North Quad is finished across the street, it's going to move from a foreground to a background building."

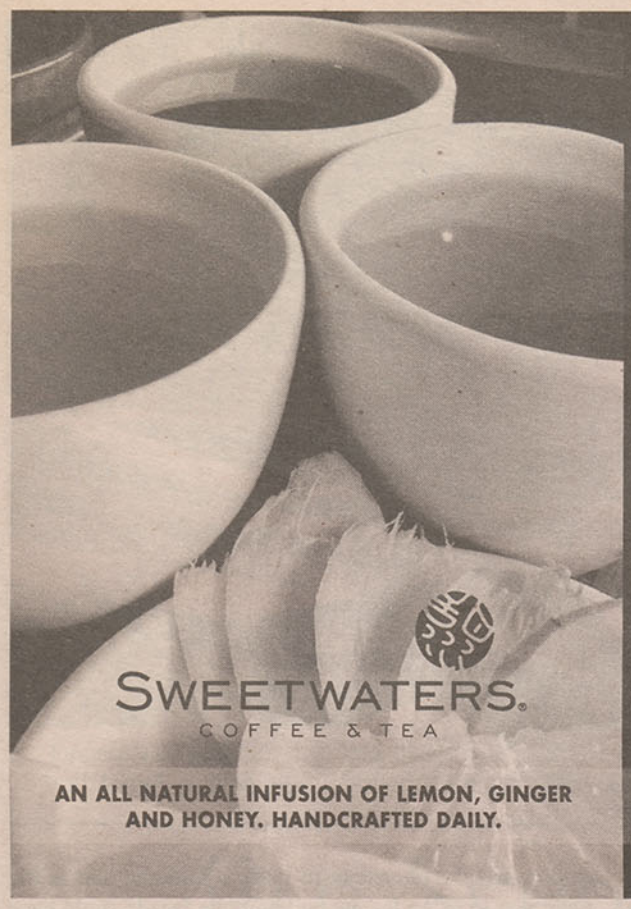
Even Carl Luckenbach likes the **Biomedical Science Research Building.** The nearly half-million-square-foot building hugs the bend where Huron becomes Washtenaw with a glass-sheathed, curving facade that wraps around the "Pringle"—a potato-chip-shaped auditorium.

"I find that building inspiring," says Quinn. "It's elegant, exciting, forward looking, and a great example of a nationally important building right here in Ann Arbor. And the potato chip is fun and delightful."

"It was a pathetic, totally nondescript corner," recalls Marc Rueter, "and now it has one of the university's more successful buildings. I particularly like its transparent glazing so you can read the structure through it."

202 South Thayer (left) "has a real mean streak," shudders Marc Rueter. "It's unpleasant to walk past." Most of our architects also dislike Michigan Stadium's new Colosseum-style Main Street facade. "You half expect Christians to be fed to the lions during halftime," sniffs Carl Luckenbach.

BOTTOM LEFT PHOTO MARK BIALEK, STADIUM RENDERING COURTESY U-M



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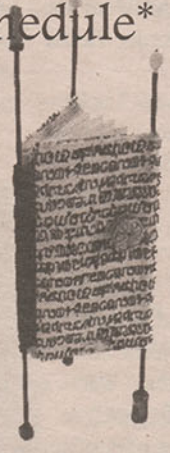

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Big House / Pringle *continued*

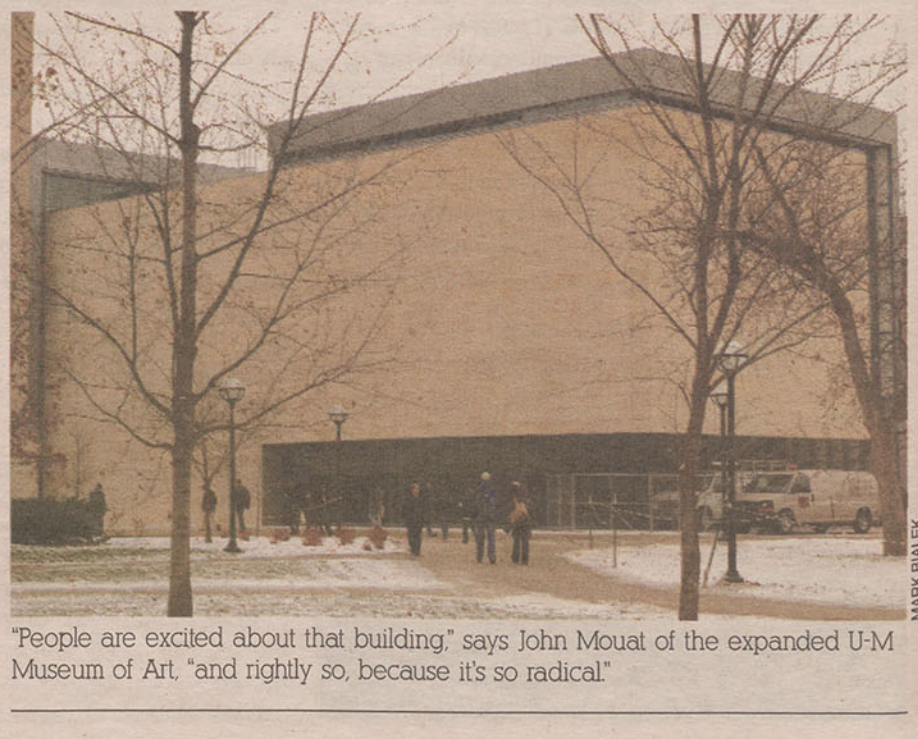
MARK BIALEK

Ugly and ponderous or appropriately monumental? Weill Hall (above) looms over the intersection of Hill and State and dwarfs neighboring Chabad House. Most of our architects believe that North Quad (below) will be more successful.

COURTESY U-M

"The atrium space is a real pleasure to walk through," says Strickland. "The architect [New York's Polshek Parnership] realized people needed an alternative way to move through that block, so he's giving them the choice of walking outside at the edge of the building or walking inside through this atrium—a pretty sophisticated move, in my opinion. And he treats it like a galleria and arranged it like a street, with a cafe with tables and chairs."

Carl Luckenbach again leads the criticism when talk turns to the School of Public Policy's **Weill Hall.** "That's an ugly building with acute massing problems," he declares. "It's extremely ponderous and looms over the intersection. And I question its neotraditional style with its comfortable images of a bygone era that evoke images of childhood. We have a word for that in my profession—'architectural comfort food.' "



MARK BIALEK

"People are excited about that building," says John Mouat of the expanded U-M Museum of Art, "and rightly so, because it's so radical."

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"The main entrance is at State and Hill Street but the parking lot is in the back, so many people are going to come in that way," comments Strickland. "It raises the question [of] what is the relationship between parking and a building's entrances. If you have a parking lot in the back of the building, does it not in effect become the de facto face of the building?"

Bob Beckley, too, is disappointed: "I've not been in it—and I don't want to go in it. They said the building on that site would function as a gateway to Central Campus, but in fact it feels rather unwelcoming because it's just too big."

Only preservationist Mike Quinn defends Weill Hall—he calls it a "generally successful building. I'm impressed with the quality of the detail and with its relationship to the whole. I'm sometimes concerned that the university presses too much volume into its buildings. But although a floor or two less would have been better, because it's a government building I think its monumentality is appropriate."

Opinions cover the critical gamut when it comes to **North Quad,** the 360,000-square-foot dorm-classroom-office building going up on the old Frieze Building–Ann Arbor High School site.

"It has all the negatives the Weill Building has along with the same monumental mind-set," says Luckenbach, "which makes sense since it's the same architect [Robert Stern]." But Beckley disagrees. "It's turning out better than I thought," he says. "It has some of the same problems as the Weill Building, true, but it solves them better, possibly because Stern was hired after the first architect left."

Rueter also foresees that North Quad "will be far more successful than the Weill Building. It has a nice termination on Thayer with a nice tower at that end."

"I'm hopeful it'll be a success," says Quinn. "The regents rightly rejected the first design as a bad design, but the second design is better."

And John Mouat practically raves about the project. "It's going to be great," he predicts of North Quad. "It's a major, important site in town, and this is a good use of the site."

"It's going to be big, certainly," agrees Strickland, "and with Corner House Lofts, it's going to bring a lot more activity at that end of State Street. Stern's buildings are highly controversial because of their overt associations with the past. But the courtyard building is a very strong type, and it's going to define Huron and State, as well as the opening toward campus, in a highly positive way."

Along with Biomedical Science, the other project that everyone on our panel loves is the $42 million restoration and expansion of the **University of Michigan Museum of Art.** Even the often-dour Luckenbach finds the project "exciting, precisely because it's going to challenge people with a new experience of architecture."

"People are excited by that building," echoes John Mouat, "and rightly so, because it's so radical. But if you look at it in relation to the original building, it's not

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Big House / Pringle

continued

really radical. In fact, it actually works nicely in the context of the original building."

"When I first saw the drawings, I hated it," admits Rueter. "But when I saw the model, I liked it—a lot. And now that it's almost done, I can say I think I'm going to like that building."

"As a piece of architecture," says Strickland, "that's quite an elegant building, one of the more successful on campus or in town. My only misgiving is that they've moved the main entrance to the new building. It's not uncommon when you have an old building with a new addition for the entrance to move to the new building. But in this case it's a shame, because the old building was such a jewel box. It was such a pleasure to walk up the steps past the columns and into the main hall. It was like entering a different world."

Topping out at twelve stories, and with an estimated cost of $525 million, the new **Mott Hospital** is financially and physically the biggest structure the university has ever built. Yet when we asked the architects for their thoughts, they were initially stymied. Though the skeleton of the new hospital for women and children is already rising next to the Nichols Arboretum, it's hard to see from outside the Medical Campus.

With the priming of a rendering and a video tour of the hospital, though, the words all but spill forth from four of the six. (John Mouat says he'll "leave it to my esteemed colleagues to weigh in on that one"; Roy Strickland, finishing a building of his own in New York, didn't reply to an emailed query.)

"Mott looks like a half a billion dollars of generic hospital," says Luckenbach with typical acridity. "I saw nothing in the virtual tour to indicate that it will have any architectural interest or distinction. Even the colors are predictably insipid—but then, when was the last time you saw any hospital with any design quality?"

"More beige wall cladding for the Medical Center Campus is not good," agrees Rueter. Still, he says, the design "does have a certain apparent lightness that seems to be a trend for new buildings on the Medical Campus—a nice contrast to the ponderous Kahn-designed main hospital.

"If Mott is half as good as the new Shepley Bulfinch [–designed] Cardiovascular Center, it will be wonderful," Rueter adds. "That building sets the standard for everything else: the entry is sheltered and inviting, the corridors and stairs are open to outside light and views, the interior spaces are gracious and carefully detailed, and it has a fresh, bright interior that is not antiseptic. The sky bridges are among the best I have seen. There is red brick! I could go on."

Coming back to Mott, Beckley says that "the architect and client have attempted to make this institutional building as unlike an institutional building as possible given the constraints of the program, budget, and site. As for its appearance, we'll have to wait and see. The Medical Campus is an

island and does little to affront the aesthetic tastes of those who don't use it."

"Like a number of the other recent projects, the university is making an effort to do long-term planning to create a dense campus footprint that is more efficient and green," Mike Quinn says. "The new structure has significant merit as a more human-scaled hospital with a more visually inviting character, even though it will be quite massive. Hopefully it will lead to the desire to explore similar energy-efficient, green-facade improvements on the balance of the hospital complex in future years."

The prospect of a twelve-story hospital right next to the Arb doesn't dismay Quinn in the least. "The Arboretum creates a natural buffer and an interesting edge to the site," he says.

"I doubt if Mott will diminish my pleasure in visiting the Arb," concurs Luckenbach, "even if I can occasionally get a glimpse of it."

Asked what the future holds for campus, Carl Luckenbach is characteristically pessimistic—primarily because of what he calls the university's "schizophrenic building policy. The university seems to have no consistent attitude or philosophy toward building. So you get a building like the Biomedical Science Research Building, which received national awards, and then you get things like the football stadium expansion, which is hideous."

Former dean Beckley, on the other hand, is very optimistic. "It's going to be more livable and more humane," he predicts of the campus of the future. "There's already a real effort to make residence halls places of learning, because, as we've discovered, students learn not just in classrooms but everyplace. More buildings will have coffee shops and Wi-Fi and places to hang out—and more people will hang out. The university will become a more human place, and I'm looking forward to it."

"The university really does have a long-term vision for the future," argues Quinn, who's worked on a number of projects there. "Just think about North Campus. The best thing the university did was open up North Campus in 1956. It gave them a place to expand to in the future."

Strickland, the urban designer, confidently forecasts that "Ann Arbor's future is very strong precisely because it's home to a great university. One of the things this country continues to do well is higher education, and the university will continue to draw people from all over the world.

"And the university is going to grow," he adds, "and as it grows, it'll add faculty plus increasing numbers of students and young people, and people entering their sixties because they'll want to be near the vibrant life of the university—and to the university's hospitals. As the town's population grows, it's going to mean more density and more retail and commercial activity that, if handled well, can continue keep Ann Arbor an exciting town to live and work in—a bright spot in Michigan and a model for other university towns." ■

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When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 994-2359.

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SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to $500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk. Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised August 2003

GM's CASSANDRA

Marina Whitman saw the carmaker's problems long ago—but even she never imagined the "perfect storm" that could destroy the company.

by Jan Schlain

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

"Most of [GM's] top management really did think that sooner or later the world would get back to normal," Whitman says. "There was *enormous* denial."

"I was the resident Cassandra," Marina Whitman recalls. "But I have to say that even in my most Cassandra-like moments, I never conjured up what's actually happened."

Whitman was a vice-president of General Motors from 1979 to 1992, helping to shape the company's response to two recessions and the globalization of the auto industry. When many executives still hoped the troubles were temporary, she argued that GM faced profound problems that threatened its future. But even she was shocked at the disaster that hit the auto industry in the past year.

In December, Whitman was just back from a meeting of the "Group of Thirty" in New York. At seventy-three, she's a "senior member" of the financial think tank. "Paul used to be the chairman," she says, referring to an old friend and mentor, Paul Volcker. "The two people who didn't show up, understandably, were Larry Summers and Tim Geithner"—past and future secretaries of the treasury.

Marina, Paul, Larry, and Tim are on a first-name basis because before she was GM's first female group vice-president, Whitman was the first woman to serve on the White House Council of Economic Advisers. That blend of business and policy experience gives her a special perspective on the crisis that's brought her old employer to the brink of bankruptcy.

As she sees it, the Detroit automakers were hit by a "perfect storm," in which the financial crisis, gas prices, and a "doozie of a recession" combined to lay bare longstanding weaknesses. No wonder her friends are urging her to get back to work on her memoir.

Her father, John von Neumann, was one of the greatest mathematicians of the twentieth century. Born in Hungary, he immigrated to the United States in 1933 to join Albert Einstein on the founding faculty of the Institute for Advanced Study. "Pure mathematicians tell you that his greatest achievements were things that I'm not even sure I know the phrases of," Whitman admits. " 'Mathematicization of quantum mechanics'—that's already too applied for a pure mathematician. From a pragmatic point of view, there is his very major role in the modern stored-program computer. And the other is his invention of—he really did invent—game theory."

Marina was born in 1935, and her parents divorced two years later. She says her memoir "really is about a clash of expectations, and then how that clash ultimately was resolved." On one side was her father, "who felt that your big obligation was to use the brains God gave you." On the other was her mother, who "felt the most important thing was to be attractive and marry early—because after college, your chances of meeting a man were greatly reduced."

As a seventeen-year-old freshman at Radcliffe—then the women's counterpart to all-male Harvard College—she met twenty-seven-year-old English instructor Bob Whitman. They married four years later. By then her father was dying of cancer—and she remembers him being "so upset, because he felt my early marriage would destroy my chances of my own professional achievement and development.

"And of course, in a statistical sense, in the fifties, he was absolutely right," she adds. "If you graduated from Radcliffe summa cum laude, you still were expected to learn to type—and then become a secretary."

But Whitman refused to learn to type—"I still type with four fingers"—and continued on to grad school. By then Bob was at Princeton, but it, too, was still all male. She enrolled at Columbia instead, taking her doctoral exams while pregnant with her son, Malcolm. Daughter Laura followed four years later. By then, Bob's career had taken them to Pennsylvania, where he taught at the University of Pittsburgh. But Marina always maintained her own academic career—highly unusual in the early 1960s. It was only years later, she once joked, that "I went from being a freak to a role model."

In 1970–1971 she served on the staff of the Council of Economic Advisers. The CEA was then chaired by U-M economist Paul McCracken, who "very much took me under his wing and became an important mentor to me." She suspects that McCracken and George Shultz, then director of the Office of Management and Budget, were the ones who "persuaded first the president's minions, and then the president himself" to make her the first female member of the council. She remembers how the Nixon administration "made a big deal" of her appointment—and, afterward, the "constant cracks about, you know, 'The administration uses her because she's pretty,' or 'Her eye shadow matched her dress.' And even while I was being indignant about that, I thought, 'You know, my mother might actually be pleased.' "

In 1979 GM offered her the job of vice-president and chief economist, working out of New York City. She took it, and the family moved to Princeton, her hometown. Bob, who still taught at Pitt, became a long-distance commuter. In 1985 she was promoted to group VP and transferred to Detroit. Bob was still willing to commute, but he needed access to a university library—which is how they wound up in Ann Arbor.

She joined GM at a terrible time in the auto industry. Then, too, oil prices had briefly skyrocketed, causing a surge in demand for small cars. While the Big Three frantically downsized their fleets, sales of Japanese cars rose so fast that the government negotiated import limits.

GM and the other American manufacturers rushed more small cars into production—only to see their sales, too, decline once gas prices fell and buyers switched back to big cars and trucks. But as Whitman and her staff saw it, the real problem wasn't fluctuating oil prices—it was GM's much higher costs. The company spent so

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GM's CASSANDRA

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Marina von Neumann and Bob Whitman met at a Harvard-Radcliffe mixer. "The most exciting thing I ever did was marry Marina," says Bob, a retired English prof.

much to develop and build a new small car, they calculated, that it would have to be sold at a loss.

"That was not happily received," Whitman recalls. "There was *enormous* denial. There were some notable exceptions, but most of the top management really did think that sooner or later the world would get back to normal—and normal was [GM having] somewhere between forty and fifty percent market share."

She couldn't see it. When new competitors enter a market, she points out, "and you've had the dominant share, there's really no place to go but down."

GM was particularly vulnerable because of its high labor costs. "Way back, to right after World War II, GM was known for making expensive [labor] agreements rather than taking a strike," she explains. "And as long as they were sharing in an oligopoly, because there was no real competition from outside the U.S., that was fine. The union was getting its share of the high profit. But once the oligopoly disappeared and the industry became worldwide competitive, the contracts were still there—but the profits to support them weren't."

In the years since she left, Whitman notes, GM made progress on its labor costs—most dramatically by shifting responsibility for its retirees' health care coverage to a fund managed by the United Auto Workers. But then came the "perfect storm."

Whitman stresses that she's been gone from the company for many years and that her knowledge now is secondhand. But what she hears is that GM boss Rick Wagoner "had what many people felt was a viable plan for turning the company around. And he had started doing it—he had renegotiated the union contract and they were doing very well in Asia, and so on and so forth.

"I tend to take GM at its word: that if it didn't get a [government] loan, it wouldn't be able to pay its suppliers. And if [it] couldn't pay its suppliers, it wouldn't get supplies. And it wouldn't be able to make any cars at all."

"What nobody foresaw—and I think 'nobody' is really true, here—was the sudden total freeze of credit. That just destroyed their access to the cash they would have counted on to get them through till the economy picked up again.

"The companies can't get loans, the dealers can't get loans, the consumers can't get loans. I think the latest forecast is 11.5 million in sales in the coming year. When I was there, sixteen million was a good year."

Bleeding cash, the Detroit automakers asked the federal government for an emergency loan. Under the circumstances, Whitman says, "I tend to take GM at its word: that if it didn't get a [government] loan, it wouldn't be able to pay its suppliers. And if [it] couldn't pay its suppliers, it wouldn't get supplies. And it wouldn't be able to make any cars at all."

Whitman believes the loans Detroit is seeking "will definitely make a difference" in assuring the companies' near-term survival. "Will it underpin ultimate viability? That we'll have to see."

Much will depend on the course of the continuing recession—and on what her successors in Washington do next. Whitman respects Christina Romer, the Berkeley economist who will chair Barack Obama's Council of Economic Advisers, but doesn't envy her dilemma.

At the recent Group of Thirty meeting, Whitman says, speaker after speaker described "a kind of a hundred-and-eighty-degree discrepancy, from many perspectives, about what is required in the short run and what is required for the long run. For the short run, we need the consumers to keep on spending; for the long run, we know Americans need to save more. For the short run, it is clear that there has to be ample liquidity provided by the Fed to help get us through this; for the longer run, there is some concern that if there is too much liquidity floating around in the world, you could get inflationary pressures. We know the government has to spend on both bailouts and on job creation, and yet for the long run, we know we have to get a handle on the government debt.

"So no matter where you look, there's this contradiction. To do what has to be done now, and then somehow make the transition a hundred and eighty degrees to what is required for the long run, can't be easy for any mortal, or any group of mortals."

But she'll leave that to others. She still has to get back to that memoir. ■

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

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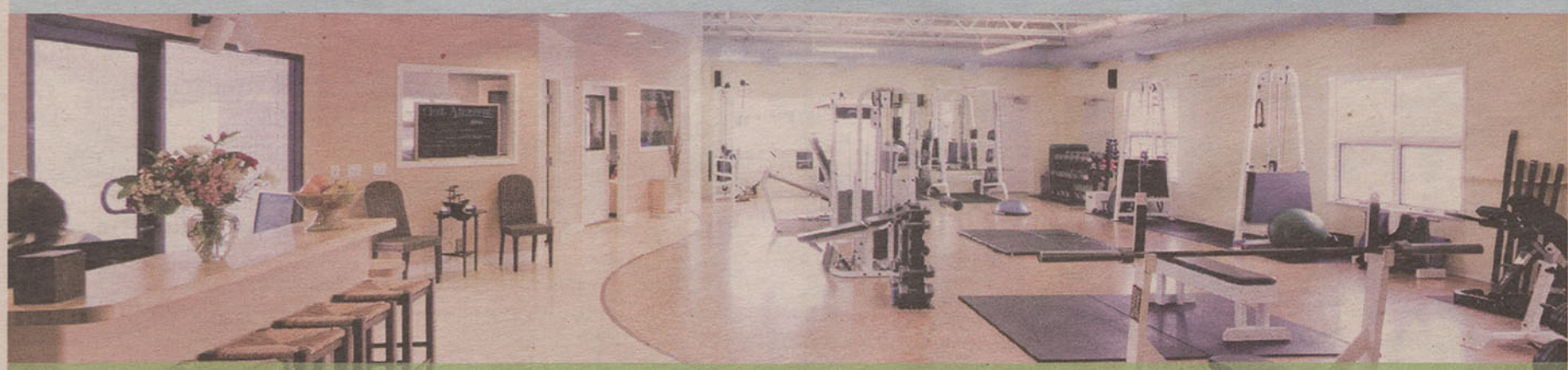

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January Events

We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

By mail: John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104.

By fax: 769-3375.

By e-mail: hinch@aaobserver.com

After-hours drop box: right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine.

What gets in?
We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

Next month's deadline:
All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

arborweb:
The entire Observer events calendar for the month is available at **arborweb: www.arborweb.com.** This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

www.arborweb.com

1 THURSDAY (New Year's Day)

"24-hour Puppet Show": Dreamland Theater. The Dreamland puppet troupe and puppeteer Patrick Elkins puppet in the New Year with 24 hours of marionette, rod, and shadow puppet shows. *Noon Dec. 31–noon Jan. 1, Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Donation. 657–2337.*

★"First Miles of 2009": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. Short ride to a brunch spot for eating and socializing. Distance depends on the weather. Canceled if an official road advisory is in effect. *10 a.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 996–9461.*

2 FRIDAY

★"Make-and-Take Project": The Scrap Box. Kids invited to make a critter pencil topper. Materials provided. *10 a.m.–noon, The Scrap Box, 581 State Cir. Free. 994–0012.*

★"Storytime with Miss Annette": Arborland Borders. *Every Wed. & Fri.* Borders staffer "Miss Annette" reads stories and leads a craft project for toddlers. Also, raffle. *11 a.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. *Every Sat. & Sun. and Jan. 2.* Four different audiovisual planetarium shows. *Note: Hubble Vision* is the only show presented on Jan. 31. **The *Sky Tonight*** (11:30 a.m. Sat. only & 1:30 p.m. both weekend days & Jan. 2) is an exploration of the current night sky. ***Black Holes*** (12:30 p.m. Sat.) is an animated show that begins with the formation of the early Universe and the birth and death of stars and concludes with a simulated flight to a supermassive black hole lurking at the center of the Milky Way. ***Hubble Vision*** (2:30 p.m. both weekend days & Jan. 2 and 11:30 a.m. & 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m. on Jan. 31) is an audiovisual show about the discoveries made by the Hubble Space Telescope. *11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, & 3:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. $4.75. 764–0478..*

Randy Napoleon, Jan. 2

Follies, Jan. 8–11

FILMS

47 **Film Screenings** — *John Hinchey & Katie Whitney*

GALLERIES

37 **Exhibit Openings** — *Katie Whitney*

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61 **Nightspots Review**
Black Jake & the Carnies — *James M. Manheim*

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39 **Steve Rinella**
Following the buffalo — *Keith Taylor*

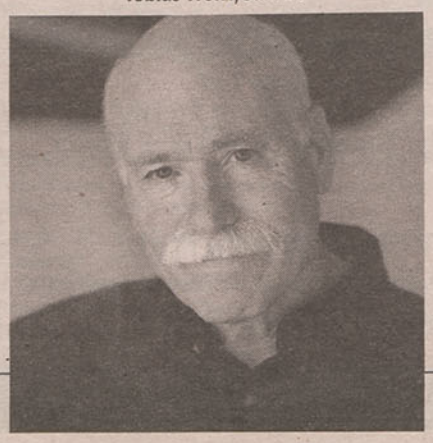
43 **Mochitsuki**
Taking the (rice) cake — *Frances Kai-Hwa Wang*

48 ***Mystery Train***
Elvis lives! — *Lizzi Wolf*

55 **Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas**
Fusion unafraid of sentiment — *James M. Manheim*

58 **Chanticleer**
A transcendent sound that gets right inside you — *James Leonard*

Tobias Wolff, Jan. 20



Jeremy Kittel, Jan. 18 (see Nightspots, The Ark)

★Chime Concert: Kerrytown Shops. *Every Wed., Fri., & Sat.* All invited to play one of 100 songs, with melodies transcribed in numbers, on the 17-bell tower's numbered keys. Ambitious players can add chords. Local chimemaster Heather O'Neal demonstrates. *Noon–12:30 p.m. (Wed. & Fri.) & 10:30–11 a.m. (Sat.), Kerrytown. Free. 369–3107.*

★Socrates Cafe: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Fri.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to join a discussion of ethics that draws on the Socratic method of questioning underlying assumptions. *1–1:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Bingo: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Fri.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play a variety of styles of bingo. *1 p.m., Brookhaven Manor, 401 W. Oakbrook (off S. Main north of Eisenhower). Free. 769–5911.*

★Bridge: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Mon. & Fri. except Dec. 26.* All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★"Snow People": Ann Arbor District Library. All preschoolers through 5th-graders invited to make snow people out of socks. *2–4 p.m., 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

First Friday Shabbat: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. JCS students lead a secular Shabbat celebration that includes candle lighting, singing, and other Jewish rituals. Dinner features locally grown foods and products from local businesses. Children welcome. All invited. *6:30–9 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 (family, $25). Reservations required. 975–9872.*

Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing). All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. *7–9 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill. $5 requested donation. 332–7964.*

★"An Evening of Armenian Music": Ann Arbor District Library. Performance of music by the Armenian composer Grikor Mirzaian Suni by an ensemble featuring his great-granddaughters, violinists **Sevan Siranoush Suni** and **Anoush Tamar Suni,** and their mother, pianist **Armena Marderosian,** the wife of Suni's grandson, U-M history professor Ronald Grigor Suny. One of the founders of modern Armenian music, Suni wrote soulful, lively art music based on Armenian folk music he collected, and his compositions include vocal solos and duets, 4-part choral works, orchestral suites, and instrumental pieces. Tonight's performers also include tenor **Rubik Mailian** and soprano **Anahit Toumajan.** *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

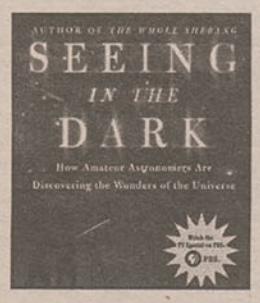
★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor. *Jan. 2, 16, & 30.* All invited to join this ongoing study group to discuss Rudolf Steiner's book *Lectures on Karmic Relationships,* vol. 6. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. *8–9:30 p.m., 33 Ridgeway East, 1 block east of the Arb entrance on Geddes. Free. 662–6398.*

Randy Napoleon Sextet: Kerrytown Concert House. Internationally acclaimed New York–based jazz guitarist Napoleon, an Ann Arbor native, leads his ensemble in new arrangements of jazz standards and favorites from his CDs *Between Friends* and *Enjoy the Moment.* According to *Detroit Free Press* critic Mark Stryker, Napoleon "plays fluid, melodic solos flushed with a glowing tone, uncluttered swing, and confident command of the mainstream-modern tradition." *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Dec. 26–28 & 31 and Jan. 2–4.* Playwright and Purple Rose founder Daniels, who, it turns out, is also a singer-songwriter, performs folk-flavored originals that may include such favorites as "If William Shatner Can, I Can, Too," "The Lifelong Tiger Fan Blues," "State Trooper," and "Recreational Vehicle," interspersed with chats about how each song came to be. A benefit for Purple Rose. *8 p.m., Purple Rose, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets $70–$85 in advance and at the door. 433–ROSE.*

Mark Knope: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 2 & 3.* This Detroit native is a veteran of the national comedy circuit known for his impressions of celebrity voices and hilarious takes on the commonplaces of everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 & 10:30 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 reserved*

January 2009 Event Highlights
Ann Arbor District Library



All events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.

Friday **2**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
An Evening of Armenian Music featuring the music of **Grikor Mirzaian Suni**, a founder of modern Armenian music

Saturday **3**, 11:00 - 11:45 am
Cirque Amongus • Comedy, circus skills and audience participation! • **Grades K - 5** • **2nd Performance:** 1:30 - 2:15 pm

Wednesday **7**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads '09 Book Discussion Leader Training • ***Seeing In The Dark: How Amateur Astronomers Are Discovering the Wonders of the Universe***
Downtown 3rd fl. AADLFreespace • **Register online or call 327.4555**
Also offered: Mon., Jan. **12**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm @ **Ypsilanti District Library, 5577 Whittaker Rd.** • **Register: 879.1303**

Saturday **10**, 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Vaudeville Music with **The Happiness Boys**
Don Devine and **David Owens** present their vaudeville act

Sunday **11**, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
The More We Get Together • A family concert and book signing with music and movement educator **Gari Stein**

Tuesday **13**, 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Vision to Reality: Key Steps to Starting a Business • Led by the Michgian Small Business and Technology Development Center

Thursday **15**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads '09 Film & Discussion: *Seeing In The Dark* • Discussion led by Michigan Television staff members

Friday **16**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Historian **Timothy Tyson** discusses his acclaimed memoir, ***Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story***

Sunday **18**, 3:00 - 4:30 pm
Music expert **Richard LeSueur** discusses ***Die Zauberflöte* (*The Magic Flute*): Mozart's Last Masterpiece**
Downtown 4th floor meeting room

Monday **19**, 1:00 - 2:00 pm
Martin Luther King Day Storytime with **LaRon Williams**
Pittsfield Branch • **Grades K - 5**

Tuesday **20**, 7:00 - 8:00 pm
Morningstar: How Are Your Investments Performing?
Downtown 3rd floor computer center

Tuesday **20**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Bright Nights™ Community Forum: Depression During Childbearing Years: Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Raising Resilient Children with **Kate Rosenblum, PhD**

Thursday **22**, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Film & Discussion: *Lost Boys Of Sudan* • Discussion led by **Jacob Atem**, one of the many lost boys of Sudan

Saturday **24**, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Special Author Event: Greg Mortenson discusses his book ***Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace... One School at a Time*** • **Huron High School, 2727 Fuller Rd.**

Sunday **25**, 2:00 - 3:30 pm
UM Professor of Theatre **Leigh Woods** discusses the upcoming UM production of George Kelly's ***The Show Off***

Wednesday **28**, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Trend or Fad? How to Design Timeless Spaces with master builder **Debra Moore**

Thursday **29**, 7:30 - 8:30 pm
Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads '09 Event: Timothy Ferris discusses his book, ***Seeing In The Dark*** • **Washtenaw Community College, Morris Lawrence Building, 4800 E. Huron River Dr.**

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at aadl.org

seating in advance, $10 general admission at the door. 996–9080.

"Friday Night Swing": Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association. *Every Fri.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring hard-soled shoes. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. *8:45–11:45 p.m., Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5 (includes lessons; students, $3). 972–9141, 417–9857.*

3 SATURDAY

Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. *Jan. 3, 11, 17, & 31.* Programs presented by Hudson Mills naturalist Jennifer Hollenbeck. Today: **"Bird Hike."** Bring binoculars and a field guide. Also this month: **"Coyotes, Foxes, and Wolves"** (Jan. 11), a PowerPoint presentation and some hands-on exhibits. **"Tracks, Scat, and Other Signs"** (Jan. 17), a hike to learn how to look for signs of animals in winter. **"Chillin' at the Mills"** (Jan. 31), a variety of winter activities, including (weather permitting) cross-country skiing, Klondike racing, dog sledding demos, and more. Afterward, an indoor craft activity and hot chocolate. *8 a.m. (Jan. 3), 1 p.m. (Jan. 17), 2 p.m. (Jan. 11), & 11 a.m.–2 p.m. (Jan. 31), park activity center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. $2. Preregistration required. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 426–8211.*

★"The Current State of Health Care Reform": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley. Talks by club members June Rusten, Skipper Hammond, and Barbara Clarke. Discussion follows. Refreshments. Preceded at 9:45 a.m. by coffee & socializing. *9:45 a.m.–noon, U-M Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973–5593.*

★Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society. *Every Sat. & Sun.* 20-mile ride (or longer) at a pace and to a destination chosen by the assembled riders. *Note*: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, change for a phone call, and snacks. *10 a.m. & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun) & 11 a.m. (Wed.), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 904–6431 (Sat. rides), 761–6253 Sun. morning), 994–5908 (Sun. afternoon & Wed.).*

★Remote-Controlled Car Racing: Washtenaw RC Raceway. *Jan. 3 & 17.* One of the largest gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. *10:30 a.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. $16 to race. (313) 565–2815.*

★Cirque Amongus: Ann Arbor District Library. This Livonia-based troupe presents a program of comedy and circus arts, including audience participation, for kids in grades K–5. *11–11:45 a.m. & 1:30–2:15 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. *Every Sat.* Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids. On Jan. 17, **Maria Dismondy** is on hand to read her new children's book ***Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun***, and on Jan. 24, Margret and H. A. Rey's lovable little monkey **Curious George** makes a visit. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★Storytime: Nicola's Books. *Every Sat.* Storytelling program for kids under age 7. *11 a.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

Draw Doubles: Local 101 Disc Golf Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to play disc golf at one of Hudson Mills Metropark's 24-hole disc golf courses. Beginners are paired with advanced players to create parity. Prizes. Golf discs available free from the Hudson Mills Metropark office. *Noon, Hudson Mills Metropark Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd. (between Dexter-Pinckney Rd. & Huron River Dr.), Dexter. $5 per player; free for spectators. $4 vehicle entrance fee. 449–4300.*

"Super Science Shows": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum Family Day. *Every Sat. & Sun.* Museum staff give family-friendly science demos. *1 & 3 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $8 (members & infants, free) regular museum admission. 995–5439.*

★Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. *Every Sat.* All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. *2–4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761–1115.*

★Ultimate Frisbee: Ann Arbor Ultimate. *Every Sat. (tentatively).* All invited to join a pickup game of this spirited team sport. The club also sponsors pick-up games every Sunday (Mitchell Field, 10 a.m. & 3:30 p.m.). *Note:* Overly aggressive players are politely asked to leave. *3 p.m., Fuller Field. Free. info@a2ultimate.org.*

galleries

New exhibits this month:

Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. *Probing the Matter of Substance: Various Media by Jung Yeon Choi, Helen Gotlib, and Mary Penn* (Jan. 9–Feb. 15). Reception 9 Fri., 6–8 p.m. 994–8004.

Ann Arbor District Library, 343 S. Fifth Ave. *Curriculum of Color: Rudolf Steiner School of Ann Arbor 2009 Annual Student Art Exhibit* (Jan. 18–Feb. 26). 327–4510.

Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. *Animal Sounds* (continuing in Jan.). *Interferometer* (opens Jan. 1). *ViewSpace: Daily Broadcasts from Outer Space* (opens Jan. 10). 995–5439.

EMU Ford Gallery, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Born to Win: Installation by David Borawski* (Jan. 12–Feb. 20). Reception 12 Mon., 4–6 p.m. 487–1268.

EMU University Art Gallery, 900 Oakwood, Ypsilanti. *Art Faculty Exhibition* (Jan. 5–Feb. 12). Reception 7 Wed., 4–6 p.m. 487–0465.

First Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 4001 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. *Photography by FUUC Members* (Jan. 1–31). 665–6158.

Gallery Project, 215 S. Fourth Ave. *Change: Various Media by Various Artists* (Jan. 21–Mar. 1). Reception 23 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 997–7012.

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *Newport 1968: Photographs by Phyllis Ponvert and Jack Kenny of the 1968 Newport Folk and Jazz Festivals* (Jan. 7–Feb. 28). 769–2999.

Kreft Center for the Arts (Concordia University), 4090 Geddes. *New Work by the Concordia University Art Faculty* (Jan. 13–Feb. 8). Reception 23 Fri., 7–9 p.m. 995–7591.

Pierre Paul Gallery, 3601-C Washtenaw Ave. (Arborland). *Colorwash: Paintings by Various Artists* (through Jan. 31). 975–1053.

River Gallery, 120 N. Main, Chelsea. *Le Avventure di Pinocchio and a Year of Walks: Textiles by Susan Moran* (through Jan. 18). 433–0826.

U-M Ford Presidential Library, 1000 Beal. *Christmas Quilts by Judy Thornton* (through Jan. 29). 205–0555.

U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library Gallery, rm. 100. *Out of This World: Large-Scale Images of the Cosmos* (Jan. 22–Mar. 7). 615–3194.

U-M Map Library, Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library, 8th floor. *Historical Maps and Atlases of Michigan Counties* (Jan. 15). 764–0407.

U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. *Dias de Fiesta: Mexican Plants, Photos, and Market Stall* (Jan. 1–4). 647–7808.

U-M Michigan Union, 530 S. State. *Black History 101: Mobile Museum* (Jan. 19). 763–5750.

U-M Residential College/East Quad Art Gallery, 701 East University. *Visions of the Drive-Thru Warrior: Sculpture by Jason Wright* (Jan. 9–Feb. 13). Reception 23 Fri., 5–7 p.m. 763–0176.

U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design), 2000 Bonisteel, 1st floor. *A&D Fifth Annual Faculty Exhibition* (Jan. 9–30). Reception 9 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 763–4417.

U-M Warren Robbins Center (U-M School of Art & Design), Art & Architecture Building, 2000 Bonisteel, 2nd floor. *OutModer: Works by Ashley Lieber and John Walters* (Jan. 9–30). Reception 9 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 764–0397.

U-M Work (U-M School of Art & Design), 306 S. State. *Meeting the Other: American and Egyptian Contemporary Prints* (Jan. 9–30). Reception 9 Fri., 6–9 p.m. 998–6178.

WSG Gallery, 306 S. Main. *Paintings, Drawings, and Sculpture by Adrienne Kaplan* (Jan. 6–Feb. 15). Reception 9 Fri., 7–10 p.m. 761–2287.

For a complete listing of local galleries, see the 2008–2009 Ann Arbor Observer City Guide or arborweb.com.

★Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment. Kids of all ages and all musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a **Kids drum circle** ($10) hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. *4–5 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662–8283.*

★Open House: University Lowbrow Astronomers. *Jan. 3 & 24.* A chance to join local astronomy buffs for a look at the sky through instruments at the Peach Mountain Observatory. Participants are encouraged to bring their own telescopes as well. Visitors must turn off all electronic equipment (car radios, transmitters, phones, etc.) at the observatory entrance. Program canceled if sky is overcast at sunset or if the weather is extremely inclement. *5:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. (as long as the sky remains clear), Peach Mountain Observatory, North Territorial Rd. (about 1¼ miles west of Hudson Mills Metropark), Dexter. Free. 332–9132.*

★Board Game Night: Get Your Game On. *Every Thurs. & Sat. except Jan. 1.* All invited to bring their own favorite board game or play one of the store's. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Drake Meadow calls to music by Twas Brillig & the Mazel Toves. No partner needed; all dances taught. Wear cool, casual clothes and flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10 (members, $9; students, $5). 769–1052.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Friday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Mark Knope: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 2 Friday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio. *Jan. 3 & 17.* High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to recorded music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., danceRevolution, Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5. 945–8428.*

4 SUNDAY

★"A2Sunday Runners": Two Dogs Running. *Every Sun.* All invited to join informal runs of 5–7 miles along various scenic routes. *8:30 a.m., meet at Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, Kerrytown. Free. 657–0214.*

★"Annual Winter Hike and Potluck": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike to examine plants around the lake. Followed by a potluck (bring a dish to pass; table service provided). *10 a.m.–2 p.m., Park Lyndon South (east parking lot), North Territorial Rd. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★Ultimate Frisbee: H.A.C. Ultimate. *Every Sun.* All invited to a very relaxed pickup game of this spirited team sport. *Note:* Overly competitive players are politely asked to leave. *10:15 a.m., Mitchell Field. Free. 846–9418.*

★First Singles: First Presbyterian Church. *Every Sun.* A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Today: a presentation on the **Professional Volunteer Corps.** Also this month: a **potluck** and **planning session** (Jan. 11), First Presbyterian member Dee Valvanis discusses **"Martin Luther King: A Dream Realized"** (Jan. 18), and First Presbyterian minister Jana Reister discusses **"My Faith Journey"** (Jan. 25). Also, members meet for breakfast every Saturday at 10 a.m. at Cafe Marie in the Courtyard Shops (1759 Plymouth Rd.). *11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662–4466, ext. 43.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Illinois. *Noon, Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★Children's Storytime: Liberty Borders. *Every Sun.* Borders staff reads stories for kids. *1 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On. *Every Wed., Thurs., & Sun, except Jan. 1.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the standard constructed (Thurs. & Sun.) and Legacy constructed (Wed.) editions of this popular collectible card game. Also, a booster draft tournament ($15 includes cards) at 6 p.m. on Fridays and a sealed deck tournament ($25 includes cards) at 1 p.m. on Saturdays. Bring your own cards. *1 p.m. (Sun.) & 6 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. $5. 786–3746.*

Contact Improv. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this interactive, freeform dance style that involves contact with one or more partners. It can involve improvisational lifts and other experimentations with gravity. You might find yourself upside down, so dress appropriately for easy movement. No partner required; beginners welcome. (The 1st Sunday of each month begins with an hour of formal instruction.) Followed by discussion and socializing. *1–3 p.m., The Mind Body Spirit Academe, Dakota Bldg., 1785 W. Stadium. $5–$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604–4416.*

★Ann Arbor Go Club. *Every Sun. & Thurs. except Jan. 1.* Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. *1–6 p.m. (Sun.) & 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.*

★"Kerry Tales: Time for Snow and Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops. 30-minute family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as "Mother Goose." *2 p.m., Hollander's, 407 N. Fifth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769–3115.*

★Cohousing Talks: Sunward Cohousing. *Every Sun.* Talks by Sunward Cohousing founder Nick Meima. Followed by a tour of the 3 Ann Arbor cohousing communities. Today: **"What Makes a Neighborhood Sustainable."** Also this month: **"Community, Health, and Well-Being"** (Jan. 11), **"How to Overcome Social Isolation"** (Jan. 18), and **"Consensus Decision Making"** (Jan. 25). *2 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. Free. Preregistration required. 763–2177.*

"Jeff Daniels: Onstage & Unplugged": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. *Jan. 4, 11, & 18.* The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents several marionette, rod, and shadow puppet shows for kids. *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. $5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657–2337.*

★Pottery Videos: Yourist Pottery. Screening of a video about Toshiko Takaezu, a Hawaiian-born potter known for elegantly simple stoneware vessels in earth tones. *4 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. 662–4914.*

★Ann Arbor Morris Dancers. *Every Sun.* All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca.* Wear athletic shoes. *6–8 p.m., Gretchen's House barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. 747–8138.*

"A Circle of Drums": Drumwomyn. *Every Sun.* All women invited to gather for a drumming session. Bring your own drum. *7–8:30 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 325 Braun Ct. $10. 913–9670.*

U-M Ballroom Dancers. *Every Sun.* Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. *8–10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom (Jan. 4 & 11) & Michigan League Ballroom (Jan. 18 & 25). $3. 763–6984.*

5 MONDAY

★Weekly Rehearsal: Women's Chamber Chorus. *Every Mon.* All invited to join this independent 30-member local women's chorus to sing everything from Bach and Hungarian folk songs to madrigals and pop tunes. David Perample directs. *10–11:30 a.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($100 per semester membership dues for those who join). 213–3770, 769–0784.*

Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon.* All seniors age 55 & older invited to play this popular bridge format. No partner required. *12:30–3:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. $1. 769–5911.*

★Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Mon. & Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play this popular tile game. *1–2:30 p.m. (Mon.) & 9:30–11:30 a.m. (Tues.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★ESL Conversation Group: Ann Arbor District Library. *Every Mon. (except Jan. 19) & Fri. beginning Jan. 5.* All levels of English speakers invited for conversation. *1–2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch (Mon.), 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., & AADL Malletts Creek Branch (Fri.), 3090 E. Eisenhower between Stone School & Packard. Free. 327–4200.*

Wine & Beer Sessions: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. *Jan. 5, 8, 12, 15, 22, & 29.* Whole Foods staff discuss wine, beer, and cheese. Also, tastings and small plates of food. Today's topic: **"Chardon-**

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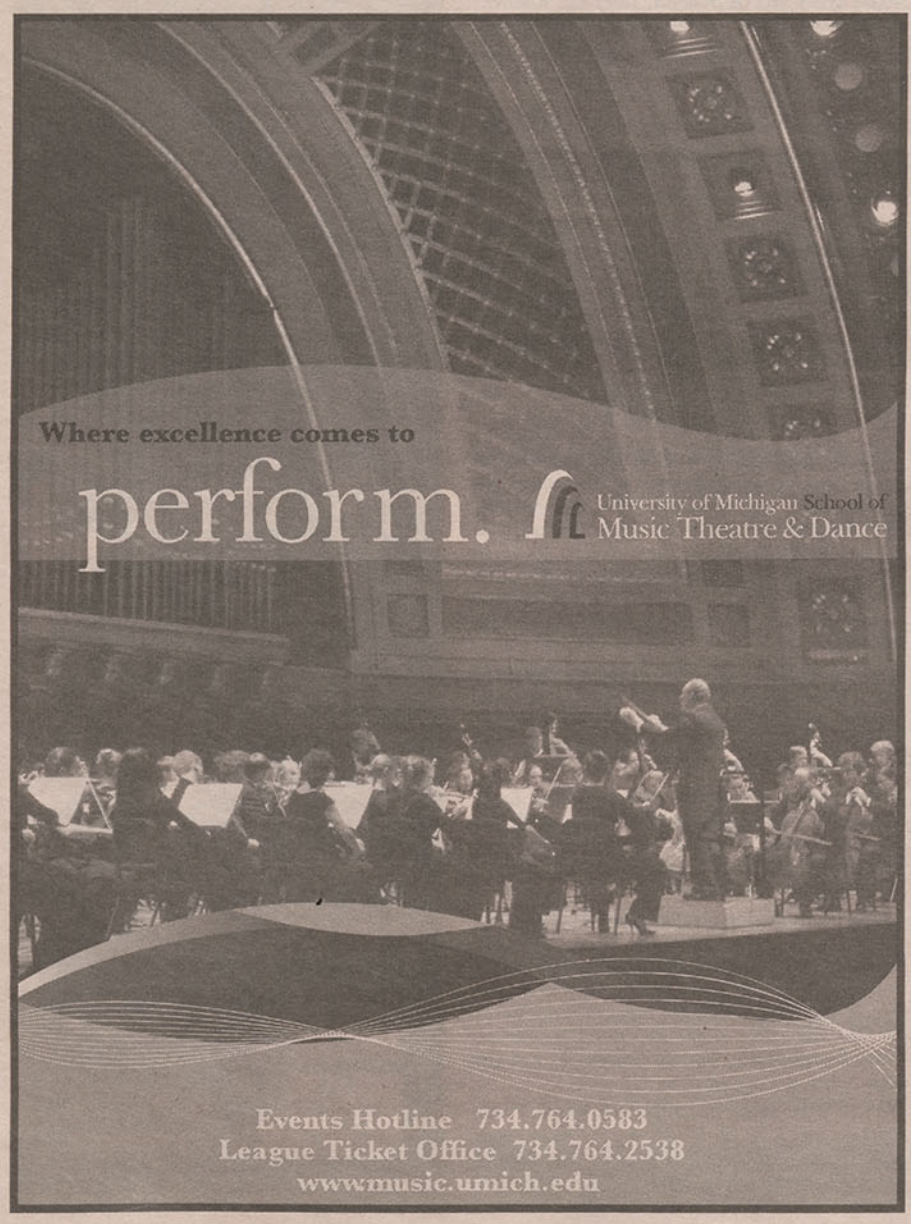


5 MONDAY *continued*

nays of the World." Also this month: **"Ecofriendly Wines"** (Jan. 8), **"Belgian Ales"** (Jan. 12), **"Syrah"** (Jan. 15), **"Lesser-Known Reds"** (Jan. 22), and **"Sake"** (Jan. 29). *6 p.m. (Mon.) & 5–7 p.m. (Thurs.), Whole Foods Wine Bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. $20 (Mon.) & $17 (Thurs.). 997–7507.*

"A Course in Miracles": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Mon.* All invited to join a group reading and discussion of this popular Foundation for Inner Peace metaphysical book. *6:45–8:45 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 327–0270.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Out Loud Chorus.** *Every Mon.* Beginning to advanced singers invited to join this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people and their friends. *7–9:30 p.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium. Free. 973–6084.*

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Corrine Hillebrand. Music provided; bring your own music stand. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a beginners class. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 213–3172.*

★**Shamanic Journeys.** *Every Mon.* Using special postures, participants enter a meditative state to the beat of a shaman's drum and discuss their experiences afterward. *7:30 p.m., Inter-Cooperative Council Education Center, 1522 Hill (in the carriage house behind the co-op buildings). Free. 320–9559.*

Dream Group. *Every Mon.* All invited to join veteran local social worker Rebecca Mullen to discuss their dreams from Jungian, Buddhist, and other spiritual perspectives. *7:30 p.m., 215 N. Seventh St. Donation. 662–5925.*

Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers. *Every Mon.* Instruction in a wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, followed by social dancing. Soft-soled shoes recommended. Refreshments. *7:30–9:30 p.m., the barn at Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver Rd. (off Nixon Rd.). $5. 769–1052, 425–0241.*

Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Mon.* Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. *8:30–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $5 team fee. 665–2968.*

6 TUESDAY

★**Game Day: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Every Tues.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play poker, mah-jongg, Scrabble, bridge, tile rummy, and Wii bowling, boxing, and more. *9:30–11:30 a.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** *Every Tues.* Activities begin at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun"** ($4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar, followed at 1 p.m. by a chance to play **mah-jongg, cards,** and **board games** or join **quilting** and other craft projects. The program concludes at 1:30 p.m. with **Yiddish Tish,** a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon ($3) available at noon. All invited. *11 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

★**"A Slaying in the Suburbs: The Tara Grant Murders": Aunt Agatha's.** Lansing-based freelance journalist Steve Miller and *Washington Times* Midwest national reporter Andrea Billups discuss their brand-new true crime story about the background, investigation, and prosecution of the gruesome murder—national news in 2007—of a suburban Detroit woman by her husband. Signing. *1:30 p.m., Aunt Agatha's, 213 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 769–1114.*

★**"Weight and Nutrition": Ann Arbor Community Center.** Talk by a physician and a nutritionist TBA. *6–8 p.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662–3128.*

★**Warhammer Tournament: Get Your Game On.** *Every Tues. & Thurs. except Jan. 1.* All invited to compete in a tournament using the 40K (Tues.) and Fantasy (Thurs.) editions of this tactical miniatures board game. *6 p.m., Get Your Game On, 709 Packard. Free. 786–3746.*

★**"Knit Happens": Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch.** *Every Tues.* All knitters invited to bring their current projects to work on and swap knitting tips. *6:30–8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945–3035.*

★**Common Thread Knitters Club.** *Jan. 6 & 20.* All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. *7 p.m., Arborland Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

★**Ann Arbor Area Writers Group.** *Every Tues.* All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. *7–9 p.m., Borders computer section, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 665–8194.*

★**Renaissance Dances: Bedlam.** *Jan. 6 & 20.* Beginning to experienced dancers invited to try English country dances, 15th- and 16th-century Italian dances, bransles, pavanes, almans, and more. Instruction provided. Wear comfy clothes and shoes. *7–10 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–1809.*

English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. *Every Tues.* Historical and traditional English dancing with callers and live acoustic musicians TBA. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Dress comfortably and bring flat, nonslip shoes (running shoes OK). *7–9:30 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. $7 (students, $4; children age 13 & under, free). 665–7704.*

★**Sweet Adelines County Connection.** *Every Tues.* All women invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local 40-member barbershop harmony chorus. *7–10:30 p.m., UAW Local 898 Hall, 8975 Textile Rd. (west of Rawsonville Rd. off I-94), Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($20 monthly dues for those who join). 480–8843.*

★**Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA.** *Every Tues.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *7:30 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd., Ypsilanti. Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Newcomers should call in advance. For information, call Greg Humbel at 445–1925.*

★**Weekly Rehearsal: Treetown Community Chorus.** *Every Tues.* All invited to join this fun-loving independent local mixed chorus to sing mostly familiar tunes, along with some serious music, in various genres. David Perample directs. *7:30–9 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Free to visitors ($80 per semester membership dues). 213–3770.*

★**Ann Arbor Camera Club.** *Jan. 6 & 20.* Tonight: club member Keith Matz presents a slide-illustrated talk on his **"Trip to the Galapagos Islands."** Also, club members show their recent film and digital slides of "Barns" and other topics. Also this month: club members show their recent film and digital prints of "Barns" and other topics (Jan. 20). *7:30 p.m., Wines Elementary School Auditorium (Jan. 6), 1701 Newport, & Forsythe Middle School Media Center (Jan. 20), 1655 Newport at Sunset. Free ($25 annual dues for those who join). 327–4781.*

★**Washtenaw Ski Touring Club.** *Jan. 6 & 20.* Today: cross-country ski expert Ron Sell discusses **"5 Best Local Ski Trails"** and **"Are Your Skis Right for You?"** Also this month: Bivouac outdoor consultant Justin LeFevre discusses **"A Ski (Mis)Adventure in Backcountry Quebec"** (Jan. 20). Preceded at 7 p.m. by socializing. *7:30 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 662–SKIS.*

★**Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of ***La Virgen de los Sicarios,*** Colombian novelist Fernando Vallejo's tale about an expatriate author who returns home to find himself trapped in a web of drug violence and urban warfare. *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★**German Speakers' Round Table.** *Every Tues.* All German speakers invited for conversation. *8–10 p.m., Grizzly Peak Brewing Company, 120 W. Washington. Free admission. 453–2394.*

"Firefly Funnies": The Firefly Club. Showcase of top local stand-up comics, along with some improv comedy. *8–11 p.m., Firefly Club, 637 S. Main. $3. 665–9090.*

★**"Triple Double Trivia": The Arena Sports Grille and Bar.** *Every Tues.* All invited to try a wide-ranging trivia quiz for such prizes as T-shirts, hats, and gift certificates. Bonus points awarded for "stupid human tricks" like drinking beer upside down, dancing to Michael Jackson songs, or inserting an entire fist into your mouth. *10 p.m., The Arena, 203 E. Washington. Free. 222–9999.*

7 WEDNESDAY

★**"The Taste of Ann Arbor No-Mile Ride": Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** *Jan. 7 & 21.* Riders meet for lunch at different restaurants the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays through the winter. *11:30 a.m., location TBA. Free. 662–5052.*

"Arts of China from Early Times until the 20th Century": Ann Arbor City Club Renaissance Lecture Series. Talk by U-M Museum of Art docent Bobbie Levine. Lunch. *11:30 a.m., 1830 Washtenaw. $17.50 (includes lunch). Reservations required 24 hours in advance. 662–3279.*

★**"Calvin College Lecture Series": U-M Campus Chapel.** *Jan. 7–9, 12–16, 19–23, 26, & 27.* Live broadcasts of lectures by experts in their fields. Today: Emory University law professor John Witte on

Steven Rinella

Following the buffalo

Steven Rinella is one of the excellent writers associated with *Outside* magazine, which over the last couple of decades has carved out a niche as the place that publishes smart young writers who have polished prose styles and a willingness to put themselves in difficult positions in the wilderness—think Jon Krakauer and *Into the Wild*. Rinella's new book, *American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon,* combines these attitudes with an intimate sense of natural history. The result reminds its readers of cultural attitudes they've assumed without question, teaches them new things, makes them laugh, and has an adventure narrative as fast paced as any novel.

Rinella gives us the natural history of the buffalo. He tells again the story of its fundamental cultural significance to Native peoples, but with nuance that might upset some folks comfortable with their platitudes. He gives the history and reasons for the last great slaughter that left only a captive remnant of what had once been our continent's dominant species. He gives the exquisite details of his own hunt for a wild buffalo.

In the 1950s a small herd of plains buffalo were released in Alaska. They soon found their way to isolated valleys hidden in a little-known mountain range. The herd has grown slowly and is again a dominant species in that small place. The state of Alaska awards a few hunting permits a year, all of which come with an enormous number of caveats and restrictions. In 2005 Steven Rinella won a permit, and he was one of four whose hunts were successful.

Rinella is not one of the yahoos who drink a case of beer and head to the woods to shoot at anything that moves. He is a thoughtful, even philosophical hunter, who studies the creatures he hunts and understands the implications of what he's doing. The meat is important to him, and he makes sure that his readers know the details of getting wild meat from the wilderness to the refrigerator. He presents a deeply environmental attitude, although his version is clearly not one that some people will be comfortable with. After his hunt, he reflects, "Seeing the dead buffalo, I feel an amalgamation of many things: thankfulness for the meat, an appreciation for the animal's beauty, a regard for the history of its species, and, yes, a touch of guilt. Any one of those feelings would be a passing sensation, but together they make me feel emotionally swollen. The swelling is tender, a little bit painful. This is the curse of the human predator, I think."

Steven Rinella reads from *American Buffalo* at Nicola's Books on Wednesday, January 7.

—Keith Taylor

"Separation of Church and State—Calvin Style: A 500th-Anniversary Celebration." Also this month: Menlo Park (California) Presbyterian Church pastor John Ortberg on **"Faith and Doubt"** (Jan. 8), noted ecologist Sandra Steingraber on **"Living Downstream: Health and the Environment"** (Jan. 9), General Assembly Council of the Presbyterian Church Middle East and Asia Minor coordinator Victor Makari on **"The Continuing Witness and the Future of the Church in the Middle East"** (Jan. 12), Massachusetts researchers Deborah and Loren Haarsma on **"Creation, Design, Evolution, and Human Origins"** (Jan. 13), award-winning historian and biographer Richard Smith on **"Lincoln at 200: The Measure of a President"** (Jan. 14), public health writer Helen Epstein on **"The Invisible Cure: Africa, the West, and the Fight Against AIDS"** (Jan. 15), film director and humanitarian Robert Rooy on **"A Witness to Change: Profiling Microfinance and the Empowerment of Poor Families"** (Jan. 16), Howard University School of Divinity theology professor Harold Trulear on **"Beloved Community and Restorative Justice: Toward a Recovery of an Ethic of Restoration in the Churches' Response to Crime and Criminal Behavior"** (Jan. 19), Rice University sociology professor Michael Lindsay on **"Powerful Faith: Evangelicals in American Culture"** (Jan. 20), *USA Today* sports columnist Christine Brennan on **"From the Sidelines to the Locker Room"** (Jan. 21), Barna Group president David Kinnaman on **"Unchristian: How a New Generation Sees the Church and Why It Matters"** (Jan. 22), award-winning humanitarian and one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people Ayaan Ali on **"Refusing to Be Silenced"** (Jan. 23), Michigan jazz ensemble the Xavier Davis Trio on **"The Language of Jazz"** (Jan. 26), and International Justice Mission justice operations vice-president Sharon Wu on **"International Justice: Using the Law to Fight for Human Rights"** (Jan. 27). *12:30–1:30 p.m., Campus Chapel, 1236 Washtenaw Ct. Free. 668–7421.*

★Social Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Wed.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play bridge. No partner required. *12:45–3:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★Chess: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center. *Every Wed.* All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. *1–4 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers. *Every.* All invited to join local Scrabble enthusiasts to play this popular word game. Bring a board and tiles, if you have them. *5–8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994–0084.*

Ann Arbor Bridge Club. *Every Wed.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early to arrange for one. *7–11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline at Maple. (Park on the north side of Pauline.) $3 per person. 971–7530.*

★Reiki: Center for Intuitive Health. Local reiki master Ray Golden discusses this healing technique and gives minitreatments. *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 663–9724.*

"Delicatessen Tastings": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Jan. 7, 13, 21 & 28.* Zingerman's staff and guest food experts discuss and offer taste samples of various gourmet delights. Today: **"Pastas and Sauces."** Also this month: **"Valrhona Chocolates"** (Jan. 13), **"Magnificent Mountain Cheeses"** (Jan. 21), and **"Chocolate Gelato"** (Jan. 28). *7–9 p.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $20 ($15 on Jan. 13) in advance, $25 ($20 on Jan. 13) at the door. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★Book Discussion Leader Training Sessions: 2009 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads. Training session for anyone interested in moderating public or private discussions of Timothy Ferris's ***Seeing in the Dark: How Amateur Astronomers Are Discovering the Wonders of the Universe,*** the book that has been chosen this year for the annual communitywide reading program (see 29 Thursday listing). *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library 3rd-floor Freespace, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. Preregistration required. 327–4255.*

★"American Buffalo: In Search of a Lost Icon": Nicola's Books. *See review, left.* Michigan-born writer **Steven Rinella** discusses his memoir about his experiences as 1 of 24 winners of a lottery to hunt buffalo in Alaska. Signing. *7 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662–0600.*

★Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club. All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. *7:30–10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad St., Dexter. Free. 426–5100.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Every Wed.* Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $5 in advance and at the door. 996–9080.*

"Juke Box Jungle": Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. *Every Wed.* Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. *9–11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. $3 team fee. 665–2968.*

Wednesdays @ Michigan Union: Swing Ann Arbor. *Every Wed.* Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by intermediate swing (7:30 p.m.) and beginning swing (8:30 p.m.) lessons. *9:30–11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room (occasionally Ballroom or U-Club). $5 (includes lessons). 945–8428.*

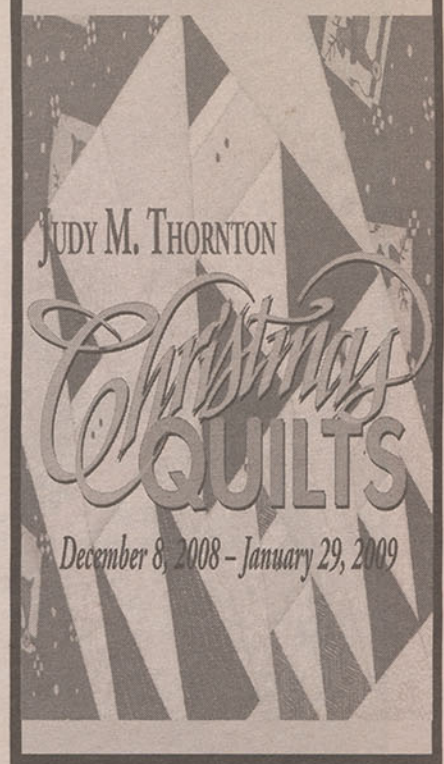
8 THURSDAY

★Bridge: Ann Arbor Community Center. *Jan. 8 & 22.* All invited to play bridge. No partner required. *10 a.m., Ann Arbor Community Center, 625 N. Main. Free. 662–3128.*

★Thursday Lunch Bunch: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs. except Jan 1.* A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with **"Fitness Fun,"** a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. **Current Events** discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch ($3 with reservation, $4 without reservation and for nonseniors) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. Today: U-M Kelsey Museum conservators Suzanne Davis and Claudia Chemello discuss **"The Research and Collections at the Kelsey Museum."** Preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a celebration of January birthdays. Also this month: Israeli journalist Daniel Zaken discusses **"Israeli Politics"** (Jan. 15), a Washtenaw County Red Cross representative discusses **"Preparedness for Winter"** (Jan. 22), and local pianist **Mario Jonette** performs classical, jazz, and popular standards. Also, at 12:30 p.m. on Jan. 15, Jewish Family Services **geriatric social worker Allison Pollock** is on hand to answer questions. The day concludes at 2:15 p.m. with a meeting of the **Senior Literary Group**, a book discussion group led by U-M Dearborn English professor emeritus Sidney Warschausky. *10 a.m.–3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971–0990.*

"The U.S. Supreme Court: Past Decisions and Future Directions": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. *Every Thurs., Jan. 8–Feb. 12.* A series of 6 weekly lectures by different U-M law professors. Open to anyone age 55 & older. Today: Leonard Niehoff discusses **"Bush vs. Gore: Frolics and Detours Arising from Supreme Court History."** Also this month: Gil Seinfeld on **"The Role of the Supreme Court Clerk"** (Jan. 15), law professor emeritus Terry Sandalow on **"Constitutional Interpretation"** (Jan. 22), and David Moran on **"Mr. Chief Justice, and May It Please the Court: How to Get a Case Decided Before the U.S. Supreme Court and How Not to Faint When You Get There"** (Jan. 29). *10–11:30 a.m., Best Western Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $45 (members, $30) for the 6-lecture series, $25 (members, $10) per lecture. Memberships are $15 a year. 998–9351.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. *Every Thurs. except Jan. 1.* All seniors age 50 & older invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *Noon–3:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. $5. 769–5911.*



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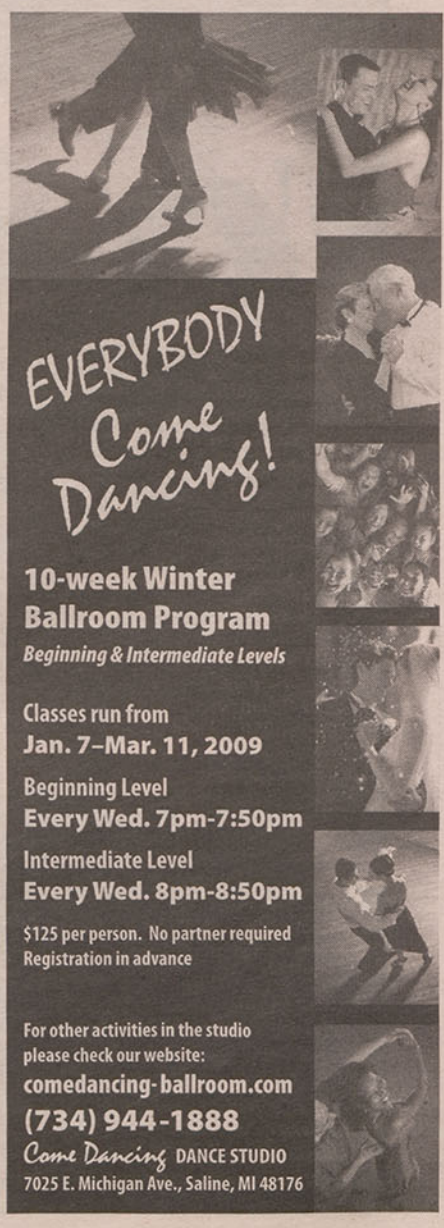


130th Season 2008 09 UMS

January Events

Rubberbandance Group

Victor Quijada and **Anne Plamondon** co-artistic directors
FRI, JAN 9 | 8 PM
SAT, JAN 10 | 1 PM [ONE-HOUR FAMILY PERFORMANCE]
SUN, JAN 11 | 2 PM
Power Center

An über-physical hybrid of precision and invention, Rubberbandance Group mixes up explosive hip-hop, contemporary, and classical dance with energy that pops and sizzles.

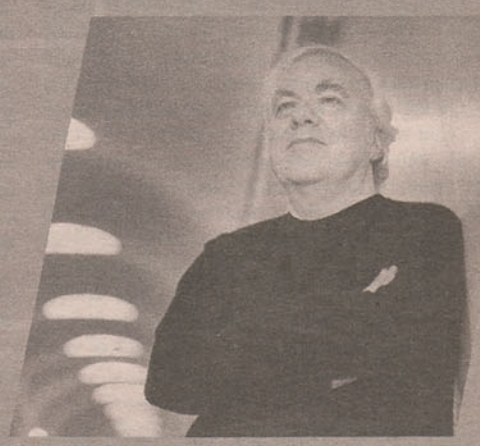
In its UMS debut, RBDG presents two full-evening works: *Elastic Perspective Redux*, a suite of six dances that are audacious settings of hip-hop to classical music and Latin rhythms, and their newest work, *Punto Ciego*. *Punto Ciego* explores whether there is a loss of time and self in our "virtual" universe, answering with a contemporary dance work influenced by ballet and break, and laced with A/V feeds, street demeanor, and an ardor for violence and tenderness together.

The Sunday performance is sponsored by University of Michigan Health System

The 08/09 Family Series is sponsored by **Toyota.**

Funded in part by the **National Dance Project of the New England Foundation for the Arts** and the **Performing Arts Fund.**

Media Sponsors **Metro Times, Between the Lines,** and **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM.**



Farewell Tour

Guarneri String Quartet

SUN, JAN 11 | 4 PM
Rackham Auditorium

This venerable ensemble will retire at the end of the 08/09 season, and UMS will present a farewell tour concert of Beethoven String Quartets. This performance will mark the ensemble's 32nd UMS concert since its 1971 debut.

PROGRAM

Beethoven	String Quartet No. 12 in E-flat Major, Op. 127 (1823-24)
Beethoven	String Quartet No. 15 in a minor, Op. 132 (1825)

Sponsored by the **Linda and Maurice Binkow Philanthropic Fund.**

Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts** as part of **American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius.**

Media Sponsors **WGTE 91.3 FM** and **Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.**

Tord Gustavsen Trio

Tord Gustavsen piano | **Mats Eilertsen** bass | **Jarle Vespestad** drums
FRI, JAN 16 | 8 PM
Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre

While relating to genres like Scandinavian folk music, American gospel, Caribbean music, and cool jazz, the Tord Gustavsen Trio presents a unique universe of lyricism, luminescence, and subtle funkiness.

Sponsored by BORDERS. **James and Nancy Stanley**

Media Sponsors **WEMU 89.1 FM** and **Metro Times.**

Gilgamesh

Kevork Mourad composer, clarinet
Kinan Azmeh painter, live visuals
FRI, JAN 23 | 7 PM & 9 PM
SAT, JAN 24 | 7 PM & 9 PM
Biomedical Science Research Building Auditorium

This unique multimedia event explores the ancient epic of *Gilgamesh* through both music and visual art, using original composition on the clarinet inspired by spontaneous drawings projected live by Syrian/Armenian painter Kevork Mourad. While improvising freely in different Arabic modes on top of a multi-layered virtual ensemble, Azmeh and Mourad create a shockingly different take on one of the world's oldest literary texts.

The Performing Arts of the Arab World series is supported in part by **TAQA New World, Inc;** the **Mosaic Foundation, Washington DC;** the **Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan;** and **Bustan al-Funun Foundation for Arab Arts.**
The Friday performance is sponsored by **Gil Omenn and Martha Darling.**
Funded in part by the **National Endowment for the Arts.**
Additional support provided by the **Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Visitors Program of the U-M School of Art and Design.**
Media Sponsors **The Arab American News, ArabDetroit.com,** and **Between the Lines.**

Richard Goode piano

SUN, JAN 25 | 4 PM
Hill Auditorium

PROGRAM

J. S. Bach	French Suite No. 5 in G Major, BWV 816
Chopin	Mazurkas
	Scherzo No. 3 in c-sharp minor, Op. 39
	Barcarolle in F-sharp Major, Op. 60
J. S. Bach	Preludes and Fugues from *The Well-Tempered Klavier*, BWV 846-893
Chopin	Nocturne in F-sharp Major, Op. 15, No. 2
	Nocturne in D-flat Major, Op. 27, No. 2
	Waltz in c-sharp minor, Op. 64, No. 2
	Waltz in A-flat Major, Op. 64, No. 3
	Valse brilliante in F Major, Op. 34, No. 3
	Polonaise-fantasie in A-flat Major, Op. 61

Co-Sponsored by **Donald L. Morelock.**
Media Sponsors **WGTE 91.3 FM, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers,** and **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

Wondrous Free
Chanticleer

Matthew Oltman music director
THU, JAN 29 | 8 PM
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church

With its seamless blend of 12 male voices, ranging from countertenor to bass, Chanticleer is "the world's reigning male chorus." (*The New Yorker*) Their program will include early American hymns, Mexican Baroque choral works, European madrigals, new works, and pieces drawn from American folk songs, jazz, and gospel. Complete program details available at www.ums.org.

Media Sponsor **WRCJ 90.9 FM.**

FORD HONORS PROGRAM

14th Annual Ford Honors Program, honoring the
Royal Shakespeare Company
Michael Boyd artistic director
Ralph Williams U-M Professor of English
SAT, JAN 24 | 6 PM [NOTE DATE & TIME]
Rackham Auditorium

This celebration, which raises funds for UMS education and audience development efforts, will animate the partnership that has developed among UMS, the RSC, and the University of Michigan, and the central role UMS education programs have had in the success of the three RSC residencies. The event will feature a performance by RSC ensemble members; Williams's reflections on Shakespeare and theater; Boyd and Williams paying tribute to each other as they have continued to enhance each other's work; and a performance tribute to all of the honorees, all woven together through brief video segments that highlight some of the profound impacts of the RSC residencies and of Williams's career at U-M.

Ticketbuyers may purchase tickets only to the FHP event in Rackham Auditorium, or to the event and a gala dinner, which raises funds to support UMS education programs.

Made possible with support from
Ford Motor Company Fund and Community Services
The 2009 Educator and School of the Year Awards are sponsored by
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Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

by **Tom Stoppard**
Jan. 8 - Feb. 8, 2009

Starring Loren Bass & Malcolm Tulip
Directed by John Seibert

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8 THURSDAY *continued*

★**Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals.** *Jan. 8, 11, 15, 22, 27, & 29.* Performances and presentations by local musicians and artists. Today: a snowflake-making workshop with **Thomas Clark.** Bring scissors. Also this month: classical music by the **U-M Life Sciences Orchestra** (Jan. 11), chamber music by the **Ann Arbor Symphony String Quartet** (Jan. 15), jazz by the **Bob Sweet Trio** (Jan. 22), a medieval book art demonstration by **Randy Asplund** with music by harpist **Julie Hussar** (Jan. 27), and classical music by guitarist **Michael Casher** and soprano **Carrie Wilson** (Jan. 29). *12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936–ARTS.*

★**"Sustainability Practices at the Grass Roots Level": Women's National Farm and Garden Association.** Talk by Project Grow executive director Melissa Kesterson. *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 995–8441.*

"Flower Arranging": Ikebana International Chapter 183. Japanese ikebana expert Miki Shimomura leads the 1st in a 4-month series of sessions of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. *1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). $10 (members, $5) materials fee. (248) 685–7696.*

★**Concerto Competition Finals: U-M School of Music.** Performances by finalists in the U-M concerto competition. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Illinois. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club. *Every Thurs. except Jan. 1.* All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. $5. 761–6691.*

"Porters and Browns": Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen porters and brown beers from around the world. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. *7–9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets $25 in advance and (if available) at the door. 213–1393.*

Higher Consciousness Group: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. *Every Thurs. except Jan. 1.* All invited to discuss and practice techniques to raise consciousness. *7–8:30 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. Donation. 353–0906.*

★**"Enzyme Therapy for Digestive Disorders": Plum Market.** Talk by local acupuncturist Mark Rojek. *7 p.m., Plum Market lounge, Maple Village shopping center. Free. Preregistration requested. 827–5000.*

★**Health Sessions: People's Food Co-op.** *Jan. 8 & 22.* Today: local raw food chef Ellen Bogard discusses **"The Truth about Whole Grains"** and demonstrates grain-free pasta. Tastings. Also this month: holistic health practitioner Linda Feldt discusses **"The Myth of Fasting"** (Jan. 22). *7–8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required. 994–4589.*

★**Health Sessions: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** *Jan. 8, 13, 14, 20, & 27.* Talks by Whole Foods staff and local health practitioners. Today: chiropractor Darren Schmidt on **"Weight Loss."** Also this month: Whole Foods staffer Jill Brown on **"The ABCs of Supplements"** (Jan. 13), acupuncturist Gary Merel on **"Balancing Hormones: Balancing Your Life"** (Jan. 14), nutritionist Judy Stone on **"Avoiding Colds and the Flu"** (Jan. 20), and Aura Cacia representative Kristin Walker on **"Making Scents: Essential Oils and Aromatherapy Basics with Your Valentine in Mind"** (Jan. 27). *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**"Shrinky Dink Nation": Ann Arbor District Library/Arbor Hospice Grief Support Services.** All kids in grades 6–12 invited to make custom accessories using Shrinky Dink craft material. *7–8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Screening of a video on **fluorite.** Also, club members show their fluorite specimens. *7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.*

Film Discussion Group: Jewish Community Center. Michigan Theater executive director Russ Collins leads a discussion of films TBA. All invited. *7 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $75 for the yearlong 10-session series; prorated weekly fee TBA. 971–0990.*

Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center. *Every Thurs. except Jan. 1.* West Bloomfield dance instructors Cheryl Felt and Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dancing to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour followed by intermediate and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. Wear sneakers or other flat, comfortable shoes. *7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $6 (kids, $3). 971–0990.*

★**"Long Cross Country: A Trip from the West Coast in an Experimental Airplane": Chapter 333 of the Experimental Aircraft Association.** Talk by a speaker TBA. *7:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Airport Terminal, 801 Airport Dr. (off S. State just south of I-94). Free. 429–2992.*

★**Motor City Metro Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.** *Every Thurs. except Jan. 1.* All male singers invited to join the weekly rehearsals of this local barbershop harmony chorus. *8–10 p.m., ICC Education Center (behind Luther House at 1520 Hill). Free to visitors ($130 annual dues for those who join). Park on Lincoln or Baldwin. 474–1155.*

"Follies": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. *Jan. 8–11.* Brian Hilligoss directs Stephen Sondheim and James Goldman's musical about the reunion of follies showgirls in a vintage vaudeville theater, where they are haunted by the ghosts of their former lives. Favorites in the score include "I'm Still Here," "Broadway Baby," "Too Many Mornings," "Losing My Mind," and "Could I Leave You?" *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Tickets $20 (seniors, $17; students, $12; Thurs., $15) in advance and at the door. 971–2228.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. *Every Thurs.–Sun., Jan. 8–Feb. 8.* John Seibert directs Tom Stoppard's black comedy inspired by Shakespeare's *Hamlet*. It concerns 2 minor characters from the play, old school chums of the prince of Denmark, and depicts them as hapless pawns, vainly trying to make sense of their existence while impersonal political forces inexorably shape their fate. Stars Loren Bass & Malcolm Tulip. The Jan. 31 performance is a benefit for 826michigan. *8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Preview tickets: whatever you can afford to pay (Jan. 8 & Jan. 17 matinee), $22 (Jan. 9, 11, & 15), and $30 (Jan. 10). Jan. 16 opening night tickets: $39 & $41 includes reception. After Jan. 16: $27 & $29 (Thurs.), $32 & $34 (Fri. & Sun.), $25 & $27 (Sat. matinee), $39 & $41 (Sat. eve.). $3 discounts available for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. $10 student discounts available in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.*

Karen Rontowski: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 8–10.* Ann Arbor debut of this up-and-coming stand-up comic known for her casually hilarious blend of the commonplace and the absurd in tales about everything from going to the Laundromat to coping with an alligator in her apartment. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

9 FRIDAY

"Tiny Tot Time": Leslie Science and Nature Center. A program of hikes, storytelling, songs, puppets, and crafts for kids ages 1–3 (accompanied by a caregiver). Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. *9:30–11 a.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $6. 997–1553.*

★**"American Values in Health Care: A Case of Cognitive Dissonance": U-M Philosophy Department Tanner Lecture on Human Values.** Lecture by Princeton University political economy, economics, and public affairs professor Uwe Reinhardt. Also tomorrow morning (9:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater), 3 other visiting scholars join Reinhardt for a symposium on his lecture. *4–6 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–6285.*

★**Robot Building: 826michigan.** *Jan. 9 & 10.* All kids age 7 & older and their families invited to learn about robot programming and build robots. Today: **"Sumo Battle Bots."** Followed by face-offs to test the robots' skills. Also this month: a **"Robot Builders Extravaganza"** (Jan. 10) offers a chance to make various Lego robots, including dogs, gymnasts, electric guitars, cars, machine guns, rattlesnakes, dolphins, and more. *5–7 p.m. (Jan. 9) & 1–3 p.m. (Jan. 10), Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair, 115 E. Liberty. Free. 761–3463.*

★**AXIS Coffeehouse: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Fri., Jan. 9–Feb. 13.* All kids in grades 6–12

Mochitsuki

Taking the (rice) cake

As I walk with my four kids into the U-M Center for Japanese Studies, we are heartened by the thump thump thump of the *kine* hitting the rice in the *usu*. It reminds us of the burly farmhands with whom we used to celebrate Mochitsuki many years ago. The girls start giggling, though, when they see who's grasping the wooden mallets: skinny little professors who seem unable to capture the rhythm of pounding in a large wooden mortar.

Mochi is a pounded rice cake, and Mochitsuki is the traditional rice cake making that happens at the end of every year to preserve just-harvested rice for the winter. New Year's Day (Oshogatsu, celebrated January 1) is a really big deal in Japan and in Japanese American communities, full of food and family and friends. When we used to spend our Christmas holidays in California, our New Year's Days were spent visiting one Japanese American friend's home after the other, eating our way across town. Now, deep in the January snow, in the quiet of this college town's New Year's season, we are revitalized by the warmth and hubbub of this annual celebration. (This year's Mochitsuki celebration is on Saturday, January 10, in the International Institute Gallery in the U-M's School of Social Work Building.)

My two middle schoolers find their friends from Japanese class and hang out on the fringes, eating Pocky sticks and talking about manga. Occasionally they will deign to help their younger siblings with a particularly difficult origami, but they are too cool to reveal any excitement.

Nevertheless, they were as amazed as I was one year when a professor from the U-M department of Asian languages and cultures took a brush as big as a mop, dipped it in a giant pot of black ink, and with a loud "Hai!" slammed the brush onto a sheet of paper larger than she, and in one fluid stroke, both hands on the brush, wrote one large word that you understood instantly. It was calligraphy as performance art.

At the normal-size calligraphy station, where you can try writing good wishes for the New Year with a regulation brush, eight-year-old Niu Niu calmly writes her name in kanji and helps the other people who are trying it for the first time. Little Brother patiently paints large black blobs that completely fill his paper—"Transformers."

The wooden clack-clack of the *kamishibai* storyteller's call brings four-year-old Little Brother running to hear the story of the Mighty Momotaro in both Japanese and English, each scene's colorful pictures displayed in a wooden stagelike frame. I love the lyrical lilt of the story in Japanese, trying to pick out the few Japanese words that I know.

Little Brother is puzzled, asking, "How come I don't understand what she is saying?"

"Just listen," I reassure him. "You will."

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

invited to perform their own poetry or monologue, or a favorite by another writer, or just to sip a hot drink and listen. *6:30–8 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327–4200.*

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to discuss Antonio Damasio's ***Descartes' Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain.*** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

First Friday Ballroom Dance Party: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. Dancing to recorded waltzes, fox-trots, swing, and Latin dance music. Lessons for beginners. *7–9 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. Reservations requested. 222–6246.*

"Future Stars 2009": Pioneer High School. *Jan. 9, 10, & 17. (different programs).* Ann Arbor high school students perform 4 different variety shows. The audience response determines the winners in each of the 4 categories, who compete in the Jan. 17 finale. Last year over 1,200 people attended this popular show. Tonight: **"Now Showing: Current Broadway Shows"** (7 p.m.) and **"On My iPod"** (9:30 p.m.). *7 & 9:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. No students without ID from an area high school or college admitted to the 9:30 p.m. show. Tickets $6 on Jan. 9 & 10, $12 (students, seniors, & teachers, $8) on Jan. 17 at the door only. 994–2191.*

★**"New Music on the Block": U-M School of Music.** Winners of this student competition perform their winning compositions that will later be recorded by the U-M recording label, Block M Records. *7 p.m., Duderstadt Center video studio, 2291 Bonisteel, North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

"Walking the Dog": EMU Theater of the Young. *Jan. 9–11.* EMU drama professor Christine Tanner directs EMU drama students in the premiere of her new play about a 9-year-old girl having a hard time with the loss of her father, her move to Chicago, and her new responsibility to walk her dad's German shepherd. The action includes mime, circus tricks, and comic movement. Aimed at theatergoers age 6 & older. *7 p.m., Sponberg Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets $5 in advance and at the door. 487–1221.*

RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL OF ANN ARBOR
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Sunday, January 25th • 2:00 - 4:00pm
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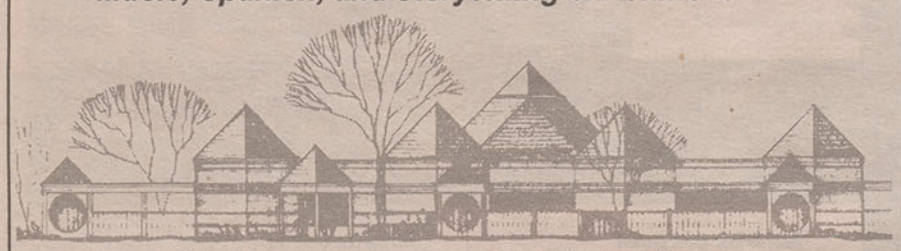

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9 FRIDAY *continued*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Miami. *Jan. 9 & 10. 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

2nd Friday Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Greg Meisner, Ray Bantle, and others call English country dances to music by Childgrove. For experienced dancers. Fast pace, with limited walk-throughs. *8–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. (248) 288–4737.*

Rubberbandance Group: University Musical Society. *Jan. 9–11 (different programs).* This 6-member Montreal dance company, led by L.A. b-boy Victor "Rubberband" Quijada and Canadian ballet dancer Anne Plamondon, performs a high-energy combination of hip-hop and classical dance. Tonight's program, *Punto Ciejo,* is an exploration of virtual reality that is influenced by ballet and break and incorporates video. *8 p.m., Power Center. $16–$38 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Follies": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Karen Rontowski: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

10 SATURDAY

★**Ecosystem Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** *Jan. 10 & 17 (different locations).* All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants and prepare new planting sites. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. *9 a.m.–noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Jan. 10), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Jan. 17), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Registration requested. 647–8528.*

Huron Gun Collectors. *Jan. 10 & 11.* Some 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. *9 a.m.–4 p.m. (Jan. 10) & 9 a.m.–3 p.m. (Jan. 11), Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $4. (517) 605–0624.*

★**Materials Recovery Facility Monthly Open House: Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** Guided tours of the city's recycling and trash disposal center. Also, make a decorative bookmark or refrigerator magnet using colorful used postage stamps. *10 a.m.–noon, Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd. Free. 994–2807.*

★**"Bilingual Family Fun in Spanish and English": Ann Arbor District Library.** Preschoolers (accompanied by an adult) invited for an interactive bilingual storytime with music, movement, and other fun. *10:30–11 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★**"Trees & Pruning": Ann Arbor Garden Club.** Lecture-demo by local arborist Jack Richardson. Bring a bag lunch. Coffee and tea provided. *11 a.m.–2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 769–2015.*

"Walking the Dog": EMU Theater of the Young. See 9 Friday. 11 a.m. & 3 p.m.

★**"Making Your Own Snowshoes": Waterloo Recreation Area.** *Jan. 10, 17, & 31.* Programs presented by WRA park interpreter Kathy Kavanagh unless otherwise noted. Today and Jan. 17: **"Making Your Own Snowshoes,"** a talk on the history and uses of snowshoes and a demonstration on making your own. Also this month: **"Mystery of the Missing Groundhog,"** a puppet show about a reporter's efforts to discover where the groundhog is hibernating (Jan. 31). *12:30–4:30 p.m. (Jan. 10), 10 a.m.–noon & 1–4:30 p.m. (Jan. 17), & 2 p.m. (Jan. 31), Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. Free. Preregistration required. $6 vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

"January Thaw": Leslie Science & Nature Center. Leslie Science Center staff lead a hike to look for and learn to identify and follow tracks, scat, chews, and other signs of animals. The program includes readings from naturalist Aldo Leopold's essay "January Thaw" and a re-creation of some of his tracking techniques. Kids must be accompanied by an adult. *1–3 p.m., Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd. $8 (family, $30). Preregistration required. 997–1553.*

★**"Mochitsuki": U-M Center for Japanese Studies.** *See review, p. 43.* All invited to help prepare *mochi,* a traditional New Year's sweet sticky rice cake. Also, live music on the harplike koto and shakuhachi flute, origami and New Year's calligraphy demos, storytelling, and games. *1–4 p.m., International Institute Gallery, SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763–6307.*

Rubberbandance Group: University Musical Society. See 9 Friday. Today's program is a family-friendly version of *Elastic Perspective Redux,* a suite of 6 dances set to classical, hip-hop, and Latin music. 1 p.m. $16 (kids, $8).

★**"Animals in Winter": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner reads some stories about nature for kids ages 4–7, followed by a hike to look for signs of animals. Hot drinks provided. *2–3:30 p.m., Independence Lake County Park Beach Center, 3200 Jennings (north off North Territorial), Webster Twp. Free. Preregistration required. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★**"Miles from Nowhere": Liberty Borders.** Award-winning Chicago writer **Nami Mun** reads from her debut novel set in 1980s New York City about a 12-year-old Korean immigrant who leaves her family and falls into prostitution, drug addiction, and homelessness. "Mun takes a cast of junkies and runaways and brings them fiercely and frankly to life," says U-M English professor Peter Ho Davies. "[*Miles from Nowhere* is] a starkly beautiful book, shot through with grace and lit by an offhand street poetry." Signing. *2 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"The Happiness Boys": Ann Arbor District Library.** A program of classic vaudeville tunes by the duo of **Don Devine and David Owens,** 2 retired local software developers. Inspired by the famous vaudeville duo Billy Jones and Ernest Hare, it features songs popular between 1880 and 1950. *2–3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Cheese Fondue & Raclette: Morgan & York.** *Jan. 10, 17, 24, & 31.* Morgan & York staffers demonstrate and give brief histories of these traditional Alpine dishes. Tastings. Preceded at 2 p.m. by talks on wine by staffers Alex Pratt and Matt Morgan. Today & Jan. 17: Bill McAlister on fondue. Jan. 24 & 31: Tommy York and Sean Hartwig on raclette. *3–4 p.m., Morgan & York, 1928 Packard. Free. 662–0798.*

"Saturday Social Dance": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. All welcome to try a variety of vintage dances to recorded music. Casual; no partner necessary. *3:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $5. 769–0041.*

"Future Stars 2009": Pioneer High School. See 9 Friday. Tonight: **"The Times They Are A-Changin'"** (7 p.m.) and **"Love Stinks"** (9:30 p.m.). 7 & 9:30 p.m.

★**"An Evening of Schumann and Brahms Lieder and Duets": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** Performance by baritone **Alan Gibson,** the St. Andrew's rector and a former music teacher, and local mezzo-soprano **Rose Mullins.** *8 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

"Fats Waller: Jumpin' in the New Year": Kerrytown Concert House. A Detroit Fats Waller tribute band plays favorites such as "Ain't Misbehavin'," "Your Feet's Too Big," and more. Members include stride pianist Alvin Waddles, bassist Marion Hayden, and saxophonist-clarinetist Charlie Gabriel. Wine and beer are served. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Follies": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Karen Rontowski: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

2nd Saturday Contra Dance. Don Theyken calls contras to music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. No partner needed. Wear cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. Beginners welcome. *8 p.m., Webster Community Hall, 5665 Webster Church Rd. between Joy and North Territorial, Dexter. $8. 996–8359.*

Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department. Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Preceded at 7 p.m. by an introduction to basic dance steps and ballroom dancing styles by Sue Bareis, Washtenaw County's best-known ballroom dance instructor. All invited, singles as well as couples. Refreshments. *8–10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. $5. 822–2120.*

2nd Saturday Swing Dance: Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy. Dancing to recorded jump blues, swing, and big-band music. All welcome; no partner necessary. Preceded at 7:30 p.m. by lessons ($5). *8:30–11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $5 (dance with lesson, $7). 213–0537.*

11 SUNDAY

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Iowa. *11:30 a.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

★**"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. *1–4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"The More We Get Together: Nurturing Relationships Through Music, Play, Books, and Art": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local music and movement educator **Gari Stein** celebrates the release of her new book with a program of music, movement, and other fun. Signing. *1–2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**"Warmth-Tolerant Pleurothallids": Ann Arbor Orchid Society.** Award-winning orchid gardener Lynn O'Shaughnessy discusses how to grow these diverse plants, commonly know as bonnet orchids, that need very little growing space. Also, an orchid show-and-tell, orchid sales, a silent auction, raffles, and a chance to grill experts on problem plants. *1:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens auditorium, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 663–0756.*

★**MLK Memorial March: Second Baptist Church.** All invited to join a march from the Washtenaw County Courthouse to the Second Baptist Church on Red Oak. Refreshments. Shuttle available back downtown from the church. *2 p.m., meet at the Courthouse, Main at Huron. Free. 663–9369.*

★**"Rose Gardens of Europe": Huron Valley Rose Society.** Slide presentation by a member TBA. *2 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 277–0112.*

★**Friends of Four-Hand Piano.** Pianists of all abilities invited to bring their music for a casual afternoon of performing duets. An opportunity to meet other pianists and find partners for 4-hand and 2-piano music. Listeners welcome. *2 p.m., location TBA. Free. 971–6261, 485–5007.*

★**Shape Note Singing: The Ark/Ann Arbor Sacred Harp.** All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Songbooks available, but singers are encouraged to bring their own. *2–5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 747–9644, 761–1451.*

★**"The Town Hall School": Pittsfield Township Historical Society.** Hannah Geddes Wright, author of *Down the Myrtle Path: The History and Memories of Town Hall School,* discusses the history of the now defunct one-room school, originally located on Geddes Rd. *2 p.m., Town Hall School, West Circle Dr., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Free. 434–4074.*

"Chords and Cuisine Cabaret Show": Huron Valley Harmonizers Chapter of SPEBSQSA. Rob Pettigrew directs the 30-voice Harmonizers men's barbershop chorus, in a program of old and new 4-part a cappella songs, including some sing-alongs. Also, guest performances by the **Saline High School choirs** and the award-winning Harmonizers quartet **Chordiology.** Pasta dinner. *2 & 6 p.m., Stony Creek United Methodist Church, 8635 Stony Creek Rd. Tickets $20 in advance and at the door. 445–1925.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Follies": Ann Arbor Civic Theatre. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Rubberbandance Group: University Musical Society. See 9 Friday. Today's program is *Elastic Perspective Redux* (see 10 Saturday). 2 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. *Jan. 11, 18–20, & 25.* This Ann Arbor–based program features 46 of the best 16- and 17-year-old American ice hockey players. The program fields 2 teams—the Under-17 Team and the Under-18 Team—that play full schedules against teams from the top American junior leagues (players ages 18–21), college teams, and comparable European national teams. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Mahoning Valley** (Boardman, Ohio) Phantoms of the North American Hockey League. *3 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. $12 (students & children, $6). 327–9251.*

"Walking the Dog": EMU Theater of the Young. See 9 Friday. 3 p.m.

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 4 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

Adult Recreational Drum Circle: Arts in Motion Dance Studio. All invited to join a group drumming session led by certified drum circle facilitator Don Allen. Bring your own drum, or use one of Arts in Motion's. *4–5:30 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. $5 per person. Reservations requested. 222–6246.*

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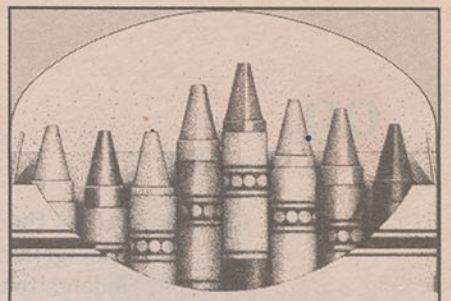

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Tuesday
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09 Kindergarten Round-Ups

Come hear about the kindergarten options available in the Ann Arbor Public School district, including;

• Half-day kindergarten • Extended-day kindergarten (half-day kindergarten program with half-day child care with the same teacher)
• Full-day kindergarten at some schools • Before-and after-school care

Abbot	2/5/09	6:30 p.m.
Allen	1/29/09	6:30 p.m
Angell	3/5/09	7:00 p.m.
Ann Arbor Open	2/17/09	7:00 p.m.
	3/14/09	10:00 a.m.
	3/22/09	2:00 p.m.
Bach	2/18/09	7:00 p.m.
Bryant	2/6/09	1:30 p.m. (parents & students)
	2/12/09	6:30 p.m. (parents only)
Burns Park	2/17/09	7:00 p.m. (parents only)
	2/19/09	1:30 p.m. (parents & students)
Carpenter	2/19/09	6:30 p.m. (parents only)
Dicken	2/17/09	6:30 p.m. (parents only)
	3/26/09	4:00 p.m. (parents & students)
Eberwhite	2/18/09	6:30 p.m.
Haisley	2/4/09	6:30 p.m.
King	2/17/09	6:00 p.m.
Lakewood	2/17/09	7:00 p.m.
Lawton	2/17/09	6:30 p.m. (parents only)
Logan	1/27/09	6:00 p.m.
Mitchell	3/5/09	7:00 p.m.
Northside	1/28/09	6:00 p.m.
Pittsfield	2/19/09	6:30 p.m.
Thurston	3/5/09	6:30 p.m.
Wines	2/12/09	6:30 p.m.

If you have questions about your child's school, please call 994-2236 or go to the district's web site, www.a2schools.org and click on the "Especially for Parents" link to log in your street name to find out your child's elementary school. Kindergarten round-up is primarily an informational meeting for parents. Some schools have planned activities for students and/or optional child care. Please contact the individual schools for more details.

ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club 2009

Learn to Skate Group Lessons/Winter Session

(Classes held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube)

Classes

Tuesdays	6:15pm to 7:05pm
Thursdays	6:15pm to 7:05pm
Saturdays	10:15am to 11:05am

Classes begin January 3, 2009 through March 7, 2009

Shooting Stars Program
For more advance skaters
January 3rd to March 7th
Saturdays, 9:15am to 10:40am
Includes off-ice dance class following ice time.

New and exciting Hockey Classes for 3 to 6 year olds!

These classes will be held on Tuesdays, 6:15pm to 7:05pm
They are designed for the beginning hockey skater.
It is recommended that skaters complete the
Snow Plow Sam 1 class before taking a hockey class.
Equipment is optional.

Introduction to Dance Classes!
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Ballet, jazz, modern and interpretive will be explored.
Taught by our experienced and talented instructors.
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Mark your Calendars!!!!
Melody on Ice Show
March 20th 7:00pm
March 21st 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Tickets go on Sale March 1st!

2009 National Team Development Program Home Schedule

Jan. 11	Under-18 vs. Mahoning Valley Phantoms	3:00 p.m.
Jan. 25	Under-18 vs. Mahoning Valley Phantoms	3:00 p.m.
Feb. 20	Under-17 vs. Alpena Ice Diggers	7:00 p.m.
Feb. 21	Under-18 vs. St. Louis Bandits	3:30 p.m.
Feb. 21	Under-17 vs. Alpena Ice Diggers	7:00 p.m.
Feb 22	Under-18 vs. St. Louis Bandits	3:00 p.m.
Mar. 6	Under-18 vs. Traverse City North Stars	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 7	Under-18 vs. Traverse City North Stars	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 17	Under-18 vs. Motor City Machine	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 20	Under-18 vs. Alpena Ice Diggers	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 21	Under-18 vs. Alpena Ice Diggers	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 24	Under-18 vs. Motor City Machine	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 28	Under-17 vs. Motor City Machine	7:00 p.m.
Mar. 29	Under-17 vs. Alpena Ice Diggers	3:00 p.m.

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For ticket information visit www.usahockey.com/usantdp

Note: Educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Jan. 30:* **"Into Great Silence"** (Philip Groening, 2007). Documentary about the daily activities of the ascetic Carthusian monks in the Grande Chartreuse monastery in the French Alps. Followed by discussion. FREE. 994–3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.), 7 p.m.

M-Flicks. FREE. 763–1107. U-M Natural Science Auditorium, 8 p.m.

Jan. 16: **"Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind"** (Michel Gondry, 2004). Sparklingly original, heart-tugging romantic comedy about a woman who decides to see a memory erasure specialist in order to gain a fresh start with her boyfriend, who also decides to erase—but changes his mind, a bit too late. Jim Carrey, Kate Winslet, Kirsten Dunst.

Jan. 23: **"Pineapple Express"** (David Gordon Green, 2008). Comedy about a pothead and his dealer who are on the run from the police after the stoner sees a cop commit a murder. Seth Rogen, James Franco.

Jan. 30: **"Alien"** (Ridley Scott, 1979). First in the trilogy of sci-fi thrillers in which Sigourney Weaver battles an extraterrestrial killer. **"Aliens"** (James Cameron, 1986). Landmark thriller about an extraterrestrial predator. Sigourney Weaver.

Michigan Theater Foundation. Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually more than once each, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668–TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): $9 (children, students, seniors, & veterans, $7; MTF members, $6.50). Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted.

Jan. 1–8: **"Slumdog Millionaire"** (Danny Boyle & Loveleen Tandan, 2008). Comic drama about a poor young Indian boy who becomes a contestant on the Indian version of *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?* English & Hindi, subtitles.

Jan. 1–15: **"Milk"** (Gus Van Sant, 2008). Biography of Harvey Milk, California's first openly gay elected official. Sean Penn, Emile Hirsch, Josh Brolin, James Franco.

Jan. 5: **"The Lodger"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1926). A jealous detective accuses a lodger of murder. Ivor Novello, Malcolm Keen.

Jan. 9: **"Psycho"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1960). Classic suspense thriller set in a motel run by a peculiar mama's boy. Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh.

Jan. 10: **"North by Northwest"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1959). Classic thriller about an ad exec mistaken for a government agent who's relentlessly pursued halfway across the country. Cary Grant, Eva Marie Saint.

Jan. 11: **"Babe: Pig in the City"** (George Miller, 1998). Family tale of a charming pig who travels to the city to help save the farm that adopted him. Kids age 12 & under, FREE. 1:30 p.m.

Jan. 11: **"Vertigo"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1958). Haunting, dreamlike mystery thriller that stars James Stewart as a retired police detective who is afraid of heights. Kim Novak.

Jan. 12: **"The 39 Steps"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1935). Classic thriller about an innocent man pulled into spy-ring doings.

Jan. 16: **"The Birds"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1963). Eerie thriller about hordes of bloodthirsty sparrows, gulls, and crows plaguing a small California town.

Jan. 19: **"The Jackie Robinson Story"** (Alfred Green, 1950). Biopic about the 1st black major league baseball player in the 20th century. Jackie Robinson. Followed by a talk by University of California–Santa Cruz psychology professor Anthony Pratkanis on **"Mr. Branch Rickey, Mr. Jackie Robinson, and the Integration of Baseball: Nine Principles of Successful Affirmative Action."** Part of the 23rd Annual U-M MLK Symposium. FREE. 1 p.m.

Jan. 19: **"Rear Window"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1954). Stylish thriller-romance about a news photographer who makes a sordid discovery while snooping on his neighbor's lives with binoculars. James Stewart, Grace Kelly.

Jan. 26: **"Family Plot"** (Alfred Hitchcock, 1976). Comedy-thriller about a con artist and her private investigator boyfriend who run into a couple of serial kidnappers.

Jan. 27: **"Forgotten Ellis Island: The Extraordinary Story of America's Immigrant Hospital"** (Lorie Conway, 2008). Documentary about the abandoned hospital on Ellis Island where some immigrants were separated from their families and forced to stay. Followed by a discussion led by U-M History of Medicine professor Howard Markel. FREE. 7 p.m.

Jan. 28: **"Asparagus! Stalking the American Life"** (Anne de Mare & Kirsten Kelly, 2006). Award-winning documentary about the asparagus farming community in Oceana County, Michigan. Followed by a talk by director Kirsten Kelly. $10. 7:15 p.m.

Jan. 29: **"An American Opera"** (Tom McPhee, 2007). Award-winning documentary about the plight of pets in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and of the people who were forced to evacuate without their beloved animals. A benefit for various local and national nonprofits. $10 & $25. 8 p.m.

Jan. 30 & 31: **"Che: Part Two"** (Steven Soderbergh, 2008). Drama about Argentine revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara. Benicio Del Toro.

U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies. FREE. Different locations, 7 p.m. *Jan. 22:* **"Sepet"** (Yasmin Ahmad, 2004). Romantic comedy about 2 young lovers—a Chinese boy and a Malaysian girl—and the complex social pressures they face. Michigan Union Pond Room. *Jan. 29:* **"The Real Glory"** (Henry Hathaway, 1939). Drama about a handful of American soldiers who try to train native Filipinos to protect themselves from radical invaders. Gary Cooper, David Niven. 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University.

U-M Max Kade House. Films TBA. FREE. 764–5018. Max Kade house (Baits II, 1440 Hubbard, North Campus), 7–10 p.m.

WCBN-FM. FREE admission. 763–3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 9 p.m. *Jan. 14:* **"Mystery Train"** (Jim Jarmusch, 1989). *See review, p. 48.* Dark comedy about the misadventures of a series of down-and-out characters passing through Elvis-haunted Memphis. Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Joe Strummer, Steve Buscemi, Nicoletta Braschi, Elizabeth Bracco.

11 SUNDAY *continued*

★**U-M Life Sciences Orchestra.** Mark Latham conducts this ensemble of musicians from the U-M medical and science staff in John Corigliano's *Promenade Overture,* Brahms's *Variations on a Theme by Haydn,* Haydn's Symphony no. 12 in E Major, and Shostakovich's Symphony no. 12 in D Minor *(The Year of 1917). 4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 936–ARTS.*

Guarneri String Quartet: University Musical Society. This superb quartet, renowned worldwide for its seamless, graceful ensemble playing, is the longest-surviving string quartet in the United States—it still has 3 of the 4 members who founded it in 1964. A perennial favorite with local audiences, the Guarneri plans to retire after the 2008–2009 concert season. This is one of its final concerts, the first in a series featuring Beethoven string quartets. Program: Beethoven's String Quartet in E-flat Major and String Quartet in A Minor. Followed at 6 p.m. in Rackham (4th floor) by a postlude dinner ($50). *4 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $24–$50 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★**Rainbow Book Club.** All invited to discuss ***When You Were Me,*** Robert Rodi's novel about a middle-aged man and a young man—the former rich, the latter handsome—who switch bodies with the help of a New Age witch. *4:30–6 p.m., WRAP office, 325 Braun Ct. Free. 763–4168.*

★**"Booked for Murder" Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss 2 novels about the theater. Caroline Graham's ***Death of a Hollow Man*** is the story of a lead actor who's murdered when his prop razor is switched for a real one. Margaret Frazer's ***A Play of Lords*** is about a medieval traveling actor-turned-spy who may know too much for his own good. *4:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769–2149.*

★**"Theology on Tap": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Outreach Committee.** All invited to join an informal discussion of social, theological, and political issues. Tonight: **"Jesus and the Purity Code,"** a talk by Episcopal Church of the Incarnation vicar Joe Summers on the implications of Jesus' systematic rejection of moral code based on the division of the world between the pure and the impure. Followed by discussion. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 116 E. Washington. Free. 663–0518.*

12 MONDAY

★**Monday Club: Ann Arbor Salvation Army.** *Jan. 12, 19, & 26.* Drop-in social group for seniors age 55 & older. Every meeting includes a speaker, word game, craft, or activity. Also, **Bible study** and **chair exercises.** Coffee, tea, juice, and doughnuts served. Followed by lunch ($1) and socializing. *10 a.m.–noon, Salvation Army, 100 Arbana. Free. 668–8353.*

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Mon. beginning Jan. 12.* Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. *Note:* Playgroups are also offered (beginning the week of Jan. 12) at the Malletts Creek (Tues., 10–11 a.m., & Thurs., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), Pittsfield (Tues., 6:30–7:30 p.m.), and Traverwood (Fri., 10:30–11:30 a.m.) branches. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** *Jan. 12 & 26.* Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available ($2.50). *12:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**Ann Arbor FiberArts Guild.** Informal show-and-tell of club members' fiber art projects. Nonmembers welcome. Refreshments. *6:30 p.m. Gretchen's House Learning Center, 2340 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 665–0703.*

★**"Steelhead Fishing": Trout Unlimited.** Talk by Colton Bay Outfitters manager Mike Schultz. Preceded at 6 p.m. by socializing. *7 p.m., Creekside Bar & Grill, 5827 Jackson Rd. Free. 417–5121.*

★**Food Talks: Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** *Jan. 12, 21, & 22.* Today: **"Cooking with Coffee."** Also this month: **"Chicken, to Go Far"** (Jan. 21) and **"Beers from Around the World"** (Jan. 22). *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**Arnold Steinhardt: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Guarneri String Quartet 1st violinist (see 11 Sunday) reads from ***Violin Dreams,*** his memoir about his lifelong obsession with the violin. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**"Working While Disabled": National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Washtenaw County.** Talk by Social Security Administration social insurance specialist Jo Anne Ashenden. *7:30–9:30 p.m., St. Clare's Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. Free. 994–6611.*

★**"What Treasures I Found at AAPEX (Ann Arbor Stamp Show)": Ann Arbor Stamp Club.** All invited to join club members for this group discussion of goodies found at last November's stamp show. *7:30 p.m., Salvation Army, 100 Arbana (park & enter at the rear of the building). Free admission. 761–5859.*

★**Sierra Club Book Club: Nicola's Books.** All invited to discuss Thomas Friedman's ***Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution—and How It Can Renew America.*** *7:30 p.m., Nicola's, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–1157.*

13 TUESDAY

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** *Every Tues. beginning Jan. 13.* Stories and songs for kids age 2 & up (accompanied by an adult). *Note:* These storytimes are also offered (beginning the week of Jan. 12) at the Malletts Creek (Wed., 10–10:30 a.m.), Traverwood (Wed., 6–6:30 p.m., and Thurs., 10–10:30 & 11–11:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs., 7–7:30 p.m., and Fri., 10–10:30 a.m.) branches. *10–10:30 a.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301 (main library), 327–4200 (branches).*

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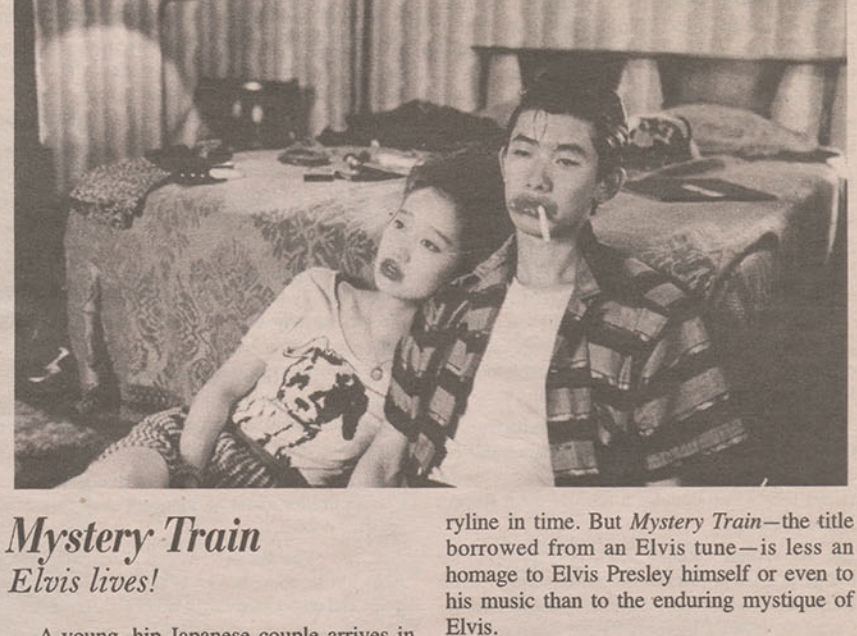

Mystery Train

Elvis lives!

A young, hip Japanese couple arrives in Memphis on a pilgrimage to Sun Studio, where Elvis Presley recorded his first hit. An Italian woman, stranded in Memphis while her husband's corpse is processed through customs, sees the ghost of Elvis from her hotel bed. A working-class English guy, nicknamed Elvis, holds up a liquor store after losing his job and his girlfriend.

The spirit of Elvis haunts—more accurately, graces—Jim Jarmusch's 1989 film *Mystery Train*, which will be screened in the Tap Room at Arbor Brewing Company on Wednesday, January 14, as part of radio station WCBN's monthly series of music-themed movies.

As expressed through the soundtrack, a love of the blues and blues-influenced music is clearly an underlying impetus for *Mystery Train*. A cameo appearance by the late Screamin' Jay Hawkins as a red-suited hotel desk clerk and the voice of Tom Waits as a late-night radio disc jockey further augment the blues-inspired ethos of the film. And Elvis's "Blue Moon" playing on the radio provides a temporal unity, orienting each of the episodes that make up the fractured storyline in time. But *Mystery Train*—the title borrowed from an Elvis tune—is less an homage to Elvis Presley himself or even to his music than to the enduring mystique of Elvis.

Vintage Jarmusch, this whimsical, episodic film is structured around theme, motif, and variation rather than strong plot or character development. The mystique of Elvis resonates with an episode in the lives of each of the characters, who all end up in the same run-down hotel for one night. To the Japanese tourists, Sun Studio is a mecca at which to worship an American pop-culture icon. To the Italian widow, the ghost of Elvis is an incarnation of her recently deceased husband, an external animus of her grieving process. To one African American character, the ubiquitous image of Elvis is just another annoying reminder of the dominance of white culture. To others, Elvis remains a source of endless fascination: the bellhop receives a nod of admiration from the front desk clerk when he calculates how much Elvis would have weighed on Jupiter at the time of his death (648 pounds).

Elvis was born January 8, 1935, and WCBN disk jockey Brian Tomsic says that the film series organizers have declared January to be Elvis Tribute Month.

—Lizzi Wolf

13 TUESDAY *continued*

★**"Butterfly Gardening": Good Thyme Garden Club.** Talk by local master gardener Carol Brodbeck. *10 a.m., Arbor Hospice, 2366 Oak Valley Dr. Free. 663–8577.*

"Robo Sapiens Japanicus: Humanoid Robots and the New Eugenics": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series. Lecture by U-M anthropology professor Jennifer Robertson. 6th in a series of 9 monthly lectures. *10:30–11:30 a.m., Best Western Executive Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. $50 (members, $35) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are $15 a year. Preregistration required. 998–9351.*

★**Children's Hour: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** *Every Tues. except Jan. 6.* Shaman Drum staff read picture books for kids ages 2–6. *11 a.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities.** *Every Tues. beginning Jan. 13.* Today: Ohio State art history professor Stephen Melville discusses **"Thing of the Past: On Hegel and Contemporary Art History."** Melville also gives a talk on a topic TBA on Jan. 21 (4–6 p.m., 180 Tappan, 519 S. State.) Also this month: University of London film and TV studies professor Chris Berry discusses **"Tell It Like It Is: Thinking about Public Space and the Media in China"** (Jan. 20), and U-M English professor **Khaled Mattawa** reads from his new poetry collection ***Amorisco*** (Jan. 27). *Noon–1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 1022. Free. 936–3518.*

★**Fiction Family: Liberty Borders.** Performance by this acoustic rock duo that performs at the Ark tonight (see Nightspots). The duo also sign its brand-new self-titled CD. *12:30 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"It's a Wimpy Party": Barnes & Noble.** All kids invited to join a scavenger hunt for items mentioned in ***The Last Straw,*** the latest in Jeff Kinney's popular series of Diary of a Wimpy Kid books. The winner gets a copy of the book. *4:30 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group: U-M English Department.** All age 21 & older invited to discuss ***The Sparrow,*** Mary Russell's futuristic fantasy about an expedition of Jesuit astronauts who meet extraterrestrials that challenge their understanding of God. *7–9 p.m., 3154 Angell Hall. Free. 764–2553.*

★**"Two Regiments Arrayed in a Skirmish": Ann Arbor Area Civil War Round Table.** Amateur Civil War researcher **Jim Epperson** discusses a dispute that involved some of his relatives. *7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off Huron River Dr.). Free. 930–0617.*

★**"Lead by Example: 50 Ways Great Leaders Inspire Results": Liberty Borders.** Local leadership consultant **John Baldoni** discusses his new book. Signing. *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Realizing the Dream: The New Faces of America Abroad": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Talk by veteran U.S. State Department foreign service officer and U-M diplomat-in-residence Adrienne O'Neal. Followed by a panel discussion with O'Neal,

U-M Multiethnic Student Affairs associate director Amer Ahmed, and U-M students. *Note:* On Jan. 22, O'Neal discusses **"Diversity and American Diplomacy: Musings on the Meaning of the Presidency of Barack Obama"** (5:30 p.m., 100 Hatcher Library, *7 p.m., Trotter House Multicultural Center, 1443 Washtenaw. Free. 647–2299.*

"The Swift Path": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center. *Jan. 13 & 27.* Talks by **Gehlek Rimpoche,** an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of Gehlek's senior students. *7:30–9 p.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (just south of Ann Arbor–Saline Rd.). $10 (students & seniors, $5). 994–3387.*

Andrea Stokfisz: Canterbury House. This recent U-M grad reads her Shakespeare-influenced poetry. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. Donation (includes cookies). 764–3162.*

★**Larisa Simington: Concordia University.** This Concordia University piano professor performs Schubert's Sonata in A Minor, Prokofiev's Sonata in C Major, 4 Scarlatti sonatas, and 4 works by Liszt. *8 p.m., Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Free. 995–7300.*

14 WEDNESDAY

★**Food Sessions: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market.** *Jan. 14, 21, 22, 27, & 30.* Lecture-demos by Whole Foods staff. Today's topic: **"Baking Bread."** Also this month: **"Tea Cupping"** (Jan. 21), **"Warming Winter Vegetarian Cooking"** (Jan. 22), **"Cooking with Whole-Grain Barley"** (Jan. 27), and **"Big Game Snacks"** (Jan. 30). *11 a.m. (Jan. 14), 1 p.m. (Jan. 27), & 6 p.m. (Jan. 21, 22, & 30), Whole Foods Lifestyle Center, Cranbrook Village shopping center, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. Free. 997–7507.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies.** Today: Sky News (London) producer Stephanie DeGroote discusses **"Fear and Loathing in Moscow: Covering 11 Time Zones and 15 Republics During Times of Great Change, 1989–1995."** Also this month: University of California anthropology professor Alexei Yurchak discusses **"Necro-Utopia: The Politics of the Indistinction and the Art of the Non-Soviet"** (Jan. 21), and Harvard University Central Asia lecturer John Schoeberlein on **"What Is Post-Soviet about Islam in Central Asia?"** (Jan. 28). *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0351.*

Caroline Weber: Margaret Waterman Alumnae Town Hall Celebrity Lecture Series. Talk by this Barnard College Romance philology and French professor, author of *Queen of Fashion,* an acclaimed biography of Marie Antoinette. Preceded at 11:30 a.m. by lunch. All proceeds benefit a U-M student scholarship fund. *Noon, Michigan League Ballroom. Tickets $40 in advance only. 663–1899.*

★**"DocuWednesday": U-M Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.** *Jan. 14, 21, & 28.* Screenings of documentaries from the U-M Askwith Media Library. Today: ***Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin*** is Nancy Kates and Bennett Singer's 2003 biography of the organizer of the 1963 March on Washington. Also this month: ***Negroes with Guns: Rob Williams and Black Power*** (Jan. 21) is Sandra Dickson and Churchill Roberts's 2004 biography of an African American man who advocated violent resistance during the civil rights movement. ***Blue Eyed*** (Jan. 28) is Bertram Verhaag's 1996 documentary about Jane Elliott's classic "blue eyed/brown eyed" classroom exercise meant to teach people what it's like to experience discrimination. English and German, subtitles. *12:10 p.m., U-M Hatcher Library Gallery, Room 100. Free. 615–3194.*

★**Group Drumming: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Diane Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. *1:30–2:30 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

★**"Religion and Science": U-M Exhibit Museum Science Cafe.** U-M scholars TBA lead a group discussion of the historic and contemporary relations between science and religion. *5:30–7:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. Free. 764–0478.*

"Intro to Cheese": Morgan & York. Local maitre de fromage Simone Jenkins explains how cheese is made and discusses how to select, store, and serve fine cheeses. Tastings. *6:30–8:30 p.m., Morgan & York, 1928 Packard. $35. Reservations required. 662–0798.*

★**"Seed Cleaning Workshop and Exchange": Wild Ones.** All invited to join Wild Ones members to learn about how to gather, process, store, and sow seeds. Bring seeds to show and exchange, if you wish. *6:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 622–9997.*

"Cheeses and Suds of the UK": Eve Restaurant. Eve Restaurant staff host tastings of English cheeses and beers. *7 p.m., Eve, Kerrytown. $50. Preregistration required. 222–0711.*

★**"The Geopolitics of the World Today: U.S. Policy at the Periphery of Russia": U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies Haidostian Lecture.** Talk by the French Armenian writer and poet **Gerard Chaliand,** a renowned authority on armed conflicts who has served as a consultant to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs since 1984. *7 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"The Toledo War: The First Michigan-Ohio Rivalry": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Retired *Ann Arbor News* columnist **Don Faber** reads from and discusses his new book about land disputes between Michigan and Ohio before Michigan became a state. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Fiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of ***Peace like a River,*** Leif Enger's novel, set in small-town Minnesota in 1962, about an 11-year-old boy on a road trip with his widowed father and younger sister in search of an older brother who's on the run after gunning down 2 schoolyard bullies who broke into their house. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**History Readers Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** EMU history professor emeritus Les Scherer leads a discussion of Scott Nelson's ***Steel Drivin' Man: John Henry, the Untold Story of an American Legend.*** *7:30 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 369–2499.*

★**"Digital Television: What You Need to Know": ARROW Communications Association.** Club members TBA discuss the switch to digital TV. *7:30 p.m., Washtenaw County Red Cross, 4624 Packard. Free. 930–6564.*

Tom Mosier: Ann Arbor Magic Club. This Detroit-area magician, who specializes in close-up magic, demonstrates and discusses his craft. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a business meeting and socializing. *8 p.m., Faith Lutheran Church, 1225 E. Forest, Ypsilanti. $15 (members, $10). 482–9523.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

15 THURSDAY

★**Noon Lectures: U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies.** *Jan. 15 & 29.* Today: University of London Birkbeck College medieval studies professor Anthony Bale on **"Feeling and Vision in Medieval Jewish Images."** Also this month: U-M Jewish studies visiting professor Howard Lupovitch on **"I'm Sorry I Ate Your Fish: The Sturgeon Controversy and the Twin Birth of Orthodox and Neolog Judaism"** (Jan. 29). *Noon, Frankel Center, 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763–9047.*

★**"Folk Dancing": International Neighbors.** Veteran local dance instructor Pat Micks leads folk dances from an array of cultures around the world. All area women invited. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. *1–2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 663–3989.*

★**Julie Chavez Rodriguez: U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Talk by this human rights activist and motivational speaker, the granddaughter of civil rights pioneer Cesar Chavez. *4 p.m., Michigan League Vandenberg Room. Free. 936–1055.*

★**Thursday Lecture Series: U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies.** *Jan. 15 & 29.* Today: Duke University history professor Timothy Tyson on **"Violence, Nonviolence, and the 'Redemptive' South."** Also this month: University of Maryland history professor Kate Brown on **"Lethal Landscapes: The Still-Secretive History of Plutonium, Radiation, and the Communities Which Learned to Love the Bomb"** (Jan. 29). *4 p.m., Tisch Hall, 435 S. State St. Free. 764–6305.*

★**"Interruptions for Everyday Life": U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** U-M art professor **Nick Tobier** discusses his performance art and other projects influenced by his interest in public places. *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**Patrick Lane and Lorna Crozier: U-M English Department.** Readings by these award-winning poets whose Canadian homeland provides a backdrop for much of their poetry. Lane's unpretentious verse often broods over the loneliness and fragility of nature, punctuating mountains and wolves with human brutality. Crozier's interest in nature is a medium for reflections on culture and connectedness: the wind links a person in Saskatchewan to a woman in Paris, snakes evoke memories of cruel children and musings on a sad world without snakes. *5 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 615–3710.*

★**Health Sessions: Cranbrook Whole Foods Market.** *Jan. 15 & 26.* Today: A Whole Foods staffer TBA on **"Be Good to Your Whole Body: ABCs of Supplements."** Also this month: Aura Cacia representative Kristin Walker discusses **aromatherapy** (Jan. 26, 7 p.m.). *6 p.m., Whole Foods Lifestyle Cen-*

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15 THURSDAY *continued*

ter, Cranbrook Village shopping center, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy. Free. 997–7507.

U-M Women's Basketball vs. MSU. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**Ann Arbor Society for Origami.** All invited (children & adults) to learn about and try their hand at origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. *7–9:30 p.m., Great Oaks Cohousing Common House, 500 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 975–4669.*

★**"Caring for Your Orchid Plant": Washtenaw Whole Foods.** Lecture-demo by Whole Foods florist Michelle Shaffer. *7 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration requested. 975–4500.*

★**Film Series: U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** *Jan. 15, 23, & 29.* Tonight: ***Mojados: Through the Night*** is Tommy Davis's 2004 documentary about 4 Mexican migrants who embark on a 120-mile trek to avoid U.S. Border Patrol. Also this month: ***For the Bible Tells Me So*** (Jan. 23), Daniel Karslake's 2007 documentary about stigmatization of the gay community by the religious right, and Jay Rosenstein's 1997 documentary ***In Whose Honor? American Indian Mascots in Sports*** (Jan. 29). *7 p.m., U-M West Quad Wedge Room, 541 Thompson. Free.*

★**"Seeing in the Dark: A Film by Timothy Ferris": Ann Arbor District Library.** Screening of this 2007 PBS documentary about amateur astronomy written and produced by Ferris, the author of the book chosen for the 2009 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads (see 29 Thursday listing). *7–8:30 p.m., Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4255.*

★**Michael Shilling: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This U-M English lecturer reads from his debut novel, ***Rock Bottom,*** the darkly comic story of an L.A. rock band, once regarded as the next big thing, that finds itself washed up in Amsterdam for the final show of a doomed and dismal European tour. U-M English professor Peter Ho Davies calls the book a "simultaneously scabrous yet affectionate portrait of a band and its entourage in the final throes of a tour de farce." Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of ***The Bankrupt Bookseller,*** Will Darling's 1947 humorous fictitious account of a bookseller's life. Refreshments. *7:30–9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669–0451.*

★**"Community Archaeology in Northeastern Arizona: An Archaeologist's Perspective on the Past and the Present": Michigan Archaeological Society.** Talk by U-M Museum of Anthropology researcher Lisa Young. *7:30 p.m., Kelsey Museum, 434 S. State. Free. (248) 437–4183.*

★**Faculty Showcase Concert: U-M School of Music.** *Jan. 15 & 29 (different programs).* Performances by U-M music professors TBA. *8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Larisa Simington: EMU Music Department.** See 13 Tuesday Concordia University listing. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Bldg. Organ Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Norm Stulz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 15–17.* Veteran Detroit stand-up comic who specializes in funny tales about raising 3 kids and other aspects of family life. "I wish I could tell a story the way Norm does," says Tim Allen. "He's a master." Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; all Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $7 (Thurs.) & $10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

16 FRIDAY

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Southeast Asian Studies.** *Jan. 16 & 30.* Talks by visiting scholars. Today: Chulalongkorn University political science professor Pitch Pongsawat on **"The Internet and Censorship in Thailand."** Also this month: University of Iowa history professor Paul Kramer on **"An Enemy You Can Rely On: Islam, Hollywood, and Philippine-American History"** (Jan. 30). *Noon–1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0352.*

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** *Jan. 16 & 23 (different programs).* Readings by U-M creative writing instructors and grad students. Today: prose by **Sopang Men** and poetry by **Zilka Joseph.** *7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 615–3710.*

★**"Blood Done Sign My Name: A True Story": Ann Arbor District Library.** The renowned historian **Timothy Tyson,** a Duke University Center for Documentary Studies senior scholar, discusses his award-winning memoir about growing up in a small North Carolina town as the son of a Methodist pastor who in 1970 tries to persuade the town to come to terms with its bloody racial heritage in the aftermath of the public murder of a black Vietnam veteran by a white store owner and his 2 sons. Signing. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4560.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. North Carolina State. *7:30 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Bowling Green. *Jan. 16 & 17. 7:30 p.m. (Jan. 16) & 7 p.m. (Jan. 17), Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

★**Ann Arbor Train & Trolley Watchers.** Club member Mark Hildebrandt discusses **"Scandinavian Trams (and Trains)"** and club member Clark Charnetski discusses **"Cathedral of Time: An Alternate Use of an Abandoned Train Station."** *7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church social hall, 306 N. Division ("just up the hill from the Amtrak station"). Free. 996–8345, 971–8329.*

★**"The Future of NASA": U-M Exhibit Museum William R. Farrand Public Lecture.** Talk by U-M engineering professor and former NASA astronaut Tony England. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

★**"Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. *7:30–9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761–7435.*

"To Know Us Is to Love Us: Songs by Gay and Lesbian Composers and Artists": Out Loud Chorus. *Jan. 16 & 17.* John Repulski directs this chorus for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in a program that includes Cole Porter's "C'Est Magnifique," Melissa Etheridge's "I Need to Wake Up," Elton John's "Answer in the Sky," Freddie Mercury's "Bohemian Rhapsody," and more. *8 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. $15 in advance at Common Language Bookstore & from Out Loud, and at the door. Tickets: 973–6084; info: 663–0881.*

★**Nathaniel Dett Chorale: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** Named for the renowned early-20th-century African Canadian composer, this award-winning ensemble is the first Canadian professional choral group dedicated to Afrocentric music of all styles, including classical, spiritual, gospel, jazz, blues, and folk. Program TBA. Also, tomorrow (10 a.m.–noon), the chorale's founder, Brainerd Blyden-Taylor, leads a program to introduce choirs and individuals to the art of singing African American choral music. *8 p.m., St. Andrew's, 306 N. Division. Free. 663–0518.*

Andrew Kratzat Singers: Canterbury House. Award-winning local bassist Kratzat leads his ensemble in his own compositions as well as works by Sam Cooke, Bela Fleck, and Abigail Washburn. Members include violinist-mandolinist Brad Phillips, guitarist Tomek Miernowski, and singer-banjoist-dobro player Laurel Premo. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.*

David Mosher: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Local singer-songwriter and multi-instrumental string virtuoso who plays bluegrass, jazz, folk-rock, and original tunes. He is accompanied by vocalist Theresa Smith. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $12 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

Tord Gustavsen Trio: University Musical Society. This jazz trio is led by Norwegian pianist-composer Gustavsen. "If a Zen master were to take up jazz piano, the results might sound something like Gustavsen's work," says BBC reviewer Thomas Barlow of the trio's 2007 CD *Being There*. "The record's slow-motion lyricism and softly propulsive melodies feel like a lesson in ice-cool mindfulness." With bassist Mats Eilertsen and drummer Jarle Vespestad. *8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre. $25 & $35 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

Janelle Monae: U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium. This popular R&B-rock-afropunk-futuristic-electronic-soul singer takes eclectic to new heights. Monae is "a talented singer and a maniacal performer," according to a *Wall Street Journal* review of a recent performance. "She careened around the stage, an audacious pixie dressed in fetching '50s garb down

to her saddle shoes, and offered a blast of Outkast-like R&B. Suddenly, the bombast ceased, and Ms. Monae, accompanied only by her guitarist, offered a delicate, jazzy reading of [Charlie Chaplin's] 'Smile.'" *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $15 (U-M students, faculty, & staff; $12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and at the door. 763–TKTS.*

"57th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert": EMU Dance Program. *Jan. 16–18.* EMU dance students perform works by guest choreographers **Stefanie Cohen, Kathryn Contessa,** and **Holly Hobbs,** along with works by EMU dance grad **Eric Abbott-Main** and EMU dance professors **Joanna McNamara, Julianne O'Brien Pedersen,** and **Phil Simmons.** *8 p.m., Quirk Theater, Ford St., EMU campus, Ypsilanti. (Take Huron River Dr. east to Lowell St. Take Lowell to Ford St. and turn right onto Ford. The theater is on the left, with parking on the right.) Tickets $10 (students with ID, $8) in advance and at the door. 487–1221, 487–2282.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Norm Stulz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Girls Night \aut\ with Tracy Mack": Sh\aut\ Cabaret and Gallery. Performances by local blues-rock and folk-rock singer-songwriter Mack and **White Raven,** the indie rock trio of local high school siblings Amy and Will Bennett and veteran drummer Muruga Booker. *9 p.m.–midnight, Sh\aut\, 325 Braun Ct. $5 cover. 663–0036.*

17 SATURDAY

22nd Annual Antique Show: Saline Area Historical Society. Juried show and sale of antiques from more than 50 dealers from throughout the Midwest, including furniture, artwork, textiles, quilts, linens, jewelry, and more. Concessions. *8 a.m.–5 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (at Pleasant Lake Rd.). Admission $3. 944–0713.*

★**"Family Learning Institute": Barnes & Noble.** Ann Arbor Public Schools teacher Jackie Spring discusses the benefits of this no-cost supplemental academic program, and Family Learning Institute director Amy Rolfes discusses **"How to Motivate Your Students to Read."** Coffee & sweets. *Noon–1 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618, 995–6816.*

★**"Making a Bog Garden": Great Lakes Chapter of the North American Rock Garden Society.** Talk by Michigan gardener Fred Case. *1:15 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 996–0692.*

Puppetry Improv: Dreamland Theater. *Jan. 17 & 31.* The Dreamland puppet troupe uses marionettes, rod puppets, and other forms of puppetry in an improv performance inspired by current events, audience suggestions, and "whatever strikes our fancy." *3:30 p.m., Dreamland Theater, 26 N. Washington St., Ypsilanti. $5. 657–2337.*

Martin Luther King Holiday Dinner Ball: National Association of Negro Businesses and Professional Women. Dinner followed at 9 p.m. by dancing to live music by **Notorious.** The evening begins with cocktails and socializing. Evening attire. Proceeds benefit a NBPW scholarship fund and community service projects. *6 p.m.–midnight, Four Points Sheraton, 3200 Boardwalk. Tickets $50 in advance only. 769–7773.*

"Future Stars 2009 Finale": Pioneer High School. See 9 Friday. Student winners of earlier competitions square off in a finale. The audience picks the winner. 7:30 p.m.

★**Dorkestra Concert & Dance Party: Sunward Cohousing.** Performance by this local swing quintet whose music blends jazz, African, funk, and pop influences. Members are clarinetist and percussionist Charles Dayringer, singer-bassoonist Gwynne Jennings, guitarist Dave SmilingSun, bassist Tim Berla, and percussionist Matthew Bell. Dance floor available. Also, performance by the Chelsea-based troupe **Nomadic Jewels Tribal Bellydance** and other guests. Festive dress encouraged. Bring a snack to share. *7:45–10 p.m., Sunward Cohousing, 424 Little Lake Dr. (off Parkland from Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 213–5995.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Ohio State. *8 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Cobblestone Farm Dancers. Robin Warner and Peter Baker call to music by the Millers. No partner needed; all dances taught; beginners welcome. Lesson at 7:45 p.m. Wear cool, casual clothes and comfy, flat, smooth-soled shoes. Also, a free open jam for string and other musicians, 3–6 p.m. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $10. 426–0241.*

32nd Annual Collage Concert: U-M School of Music. An hour of nonstop music in a wide range of contrasting styles. Classical, jazz, big band, vocal, and pop ensembles and soloists segue rapidly from one idiom to the next. Performers are U-M music students. One of the music school's most popular events. *8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. $18 & $25 (students with ID, $9) in advance at the Michigan League Ticket Office, and (if available) at the door. 764–2538.*

"To Know Us Is to Love Us: Songs by Gay and Lesbian Composers and Artists": Out Loud Chorus. See 16 Friday. 8 p.m.

"57th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert": EMU Dance Program. See 16 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Norm Stulz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Singles Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by DJ John Brown. Cash bar. Smoking allowed in designated areas. Preceded at 8 p.m. by free dance lessons. *9 p.m.–1 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. $8 (PWP members, $6). 433–1668.*

18 SUNDAY

Mary Lou Hallenbeck: Greater Ann Arbor Quilt Guild. Talk by this quilter, owner of HD Designs in Brooklyn, Michigan. Followed by a members show-and-tell and a sale of quilting supplies. *9:45 a.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. $10 (members, free). Wheelchair-accessible. 953–9650.*

★**Sunday Schmooze: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society.** All invited for socializing and discussion of topics TBA. Coffee, snack. *10 a.m.–noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975–9872.*

"The Ann Arbor Record & CD Show": Wildwood Records. This popular fair is back with more than 50 dealers from a half dozen states selling rare and collectible used records and CDs as well as hard-to-find new releases, including almost every imaginable popular music genre. Also, rock music books, rock videos, posters, and assorted popular-culture memorabilia. This show draws huge crowds all day long. Food and beverages for sale. Patrons may bring in a small number of records to sell. *10 a.m.–4 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $3 admission (children age 10 & under, free). For information or to reserve a dealer table, call Ken Price at (574) 329–1483.*

★**"The Human Revolution": Tsogyelgar Dharma Center.** Traktung Yeshe Dorje discusses tantric Buddhism. *10:30 a.m., Tsogyelgar Dharma Center, 7145 W. Liberty. Free. 663–3842.*

Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players: The Ark. Family concert by this acclaimed ensemble led by Roberts, a Minneapolis indie rock singer-songwriter turned Montessori preschool teacher. The band has been a big hit everywhere from Symphony Space in New York to Lollapalooza, and its CD *Not Naptime* was named by *Parents' Choice* to its list of the 25 best kids CDs of the past 25 years. *1 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Tickets $10 in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

Family Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. All children and their parents or grandparents invited for an afternoon of contra and square dancing with callers John Freeman, Ed Vincent, and David Park Williams with music by David West and Donna Baird. Followed by Grange-baked cookies. *2–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $12 per family. 769–1052.*

★**"Ghana Family Cultural Celebration": Ann Arbor District Library.** Kofi Ameyaw performs Ghanaian music on the *gyil* drum and the *aslatua,* a percussion instrument made from 2 small gourds. Also, Ghanaian *adinkra* (decorated cloth) crafts and treats. For families with kids from babies through 5th-graders. *2–3:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"Higher Realms": Ann Arbor Concert Band. James Nissen directs this local volunteer ensemble in his *A2CB Fanfare,* Paul Creston's *Celebration Overture,* Robert Smith's *Angels, from the Realms of Glory,* and Van der Roost's *Canterbury Chorale.* Guest conductor Stephen Roberts directs the band in Mark Camphouse's *A Dakota Rhapsody,* Robert Reynolds's arrangement of Morten Lauridsen's setting of "O Magnum Mysterium," Paul Hindemith's Symphony in B-flat, and Sousa's "Nobles of the Mystic Shrine." *2 p.m., Michigan Theater. $10 (students & seniors, $5; kids age 12 & under, free) in advance and at the door. 434–7876.*

"57th Annual Faculty and Guest Artist Choreography Concert": EMU Dance Program. See 16 Friday. 2 p.m.

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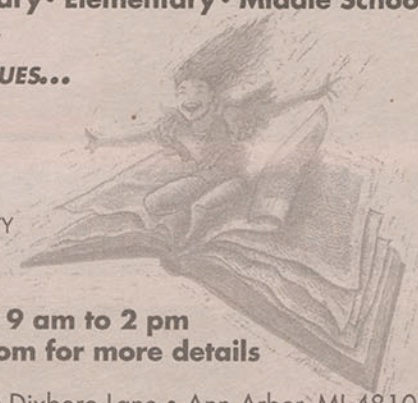

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Tuesday, January 13
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18 SUNDAY *continued*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"The Magic Flute: Mozart's Masterpiece": Ann Arbor District Library.** AADL music specialist Richard LeSueur discusses (with musical examples) the Mozart opera, which the Ann Arbor Symphony performs on Jan. 24 (see listing). *3–4 p.m., AADL 4th-floor meeting room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

Children's Puppet Shows: Dreamland Theater. See 4 Sunday. 3:30 p.m.

★**Community Studio Potluck: Yourist Pottery.** All invited for a potluck dinner (bring a dish to pass) and an introduction to the pottery studio. *4–7 p.m., Yourist Pottery & Design Studio, 1160 Broadway. Free. Preregistration requested. 662–4914.*

★**"The Domestication and Spread of Bananas": Culinary Historians of Ann Arbor.** Talk by U-M ecology and evolutionary biology professor George Estabrook. *4–6 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin Ave. Free. 662–8661.*

Benefit Concert: Northside Community Church "Concerts for a Cause." An evening of classical music ensembles of local and area musicians, including violinist Kristen Van Ausdal, Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra cellist Alicia Rowe, pianists Adrienne Clark and Kathryn Goodson, and other instrumentalists and singers TBA. The program includes works by Brahms, Bach, Piazzolla, Ravel, and Milhaud. Proceeds benefit Ann Arbor School of Yoga ACTION, which offers free yoga classes for residents of area shelters. *7:30 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Drive. Donation. 662–6361.*

19 MONDAY

★**"MLK Children & Youth Program": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Parents can drop off kids ages 5–18 for a day of stories, games, musical performances, and activities centered on Martin Luther King Jr. Meals and snacks provided. *8:30 a.m.–3 p.m., 1st and 2nd floors of Modern Languages Bldg., 812 E. Washington. Free. Preregistration requested at umich.edu/~tauep/MLKDay.html. 764–0567.*

★**"MLK Day Art Project": Ann Arbor District Library.** All invited to drop by to help do an art project honoring Martin Luther King for display on the youth department walls. *10 a.m.–9 p.m., AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

"Science Is for Everyone": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. All invited to do hands-on activities to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. *10 a.m.–5 p.m., Hands-On Museum, 220 E. Ann. $1. 995–5439.*

★**Julian Bond: U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Talk by this NAACP chairman, a veteran civil rights activist who helped found the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee in Atlanta in the 1960s. Bond hosted *America's Black Forum* from 1980 to 1997 and continues to appear as a commentator on the *Forum* and *The Today Show. 10 a.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 936–1055.*

★**MLK Jr. Storytime & Craft: Barnes & Noble.** All kids (accompanied by a parent) invited to listen to a story and make a West African kufi cap. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 50 & older invited to join Lucia Skoman to discuss a book TBA at a2gov.org/senior. *12:15 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 769–5911.*

★**"MLK Day Storytime": Ann Arbor District Library.** Popular local African American storyteller **LaRon Williams** presents a multicultural storytelling program, with an emphasis on African and African American folktales brought to life with a wide range of dialects, gestures, and facial expressions to conjure all sorts of human, animal, and supernatural characters. *1–2 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 327–4200.*

★**"A Day on, Not a Day off": the Neutral Zone.** All invited to discuss Martin Luther King Jr. and current events. *1–3 p.m., The Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214–9995.*

★**"Only in America: Children Without Parole": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Panel discussion on the U.S. practice of sentencing people as young as 13 to life in prison. Panelists include Efren Paredes Jr.—who was sentenced to life in prison at age 15—along with members of his family and others. *1 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 647–7673.*

★**"Myth and Miracle from the King Years": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Talk by Pulitzer Prize–winning historian **Taylor Branch,** author of the trilogy *America in the King Years,* a history of the civil rights movement and biography of Martin

Luther King Jr. *1:30 p.m., Business School Blau Auditorium, 701 Tappan. Free. 657–0342.*

★**"Circle of Unity": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** All invited to listen to or join impromptu performances of songs and spoken word pieces about freedom. Free wristbands for the first 250 participants. *2–3 p.m., the Diag. Free. 647–4860.*

★**"Women's Caucus for Art": Ann Arbor Women Artists.** Three Women's Caucus for Art board members discuss the group's purpose, its history, and exhibition opportunities. *2 p.m., Ann Arbor Art Center, 117 W. Liberty. Free. 483–1897.*

★**"Don't Take Diversity Seriously: Just Kidding!": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Talk by award-winning stand-up comedian **Larry Wilmore,** the *Daily Show* "Senior Black Correspondent." *2 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. 936–7663.*

★**"Dare to Dream": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Performance by internationally acclaimed bass-baritone **Simon Estes,** who became the first African American man to sing a major role at the Bayreuth Festival in 1978. *2 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theater. Free. 615–3734.*

★**"Journeys Toward Understanding": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** A series of documentaries about Martin Luther King Jr. ***Freedom on My Mind*** (3 p.m.) is Connie Field and Marilyn Mulford's Oscar-nominated 1994 documentary about the Mississippi voter registration campaign, 1961–1964, that led to the passage of the historic 1965 Voter Rights Act. ***American Experience: Citizen King*** (5 p.m.) is Orlando Bagwell and Noland Walker's 2004 documentary about the last 5 years of King's life. ***Martin Luther King Jr.: I Have a Dream*** (7:05 p.m.) is a 1986 film that juxtaposes King's "I Have a Dream" speech with archival footage of 1960s civil rights protests. *3 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 647–4860.*

★**"Drumming & Beading for Dreamers of the Dream: Love Your Indian Day": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** U-M Native American studies professor Howard Kimewon discusses Ojibwe culture and language. Followed by Native American drumming and a Navajo beading demonstration. Refreshments. *4 p.m., SSWB Education Conference Center, 1080 South University. Free. (412) 496–5591.*

★**Embroiderers Guild of America.** Stitchers of all abilities invited to work on their projects, socialize, and learn about guild activities. *7 p.m., United Way, 2305 Platt. Free to visitors ($30 annual dues). 975–4348.*

★**Nonfiction Readers Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of Susan Richards's memoir ***Chosen by a Horse.*** Refreshments. *7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1618.*

★**"Elsewhere, U.S.A.": Liberty Borders.** NYU sociology professor **Dalton Conley** discusses his new book about the recent blurring of the boundaries between work and home lives in American culture. Conley also gives a talk at 4 p.m. on **"A Dollar and a Dream: Wealth, Opportunity, and Security in the Post-Civil Rights Era"** (250 Hutchins Hall, 625 S. State). *7 p.m., Borders, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

★**"Pulling Together for Nature": Michigan Botanical Club.** Talk by Stewardship Network director Lisa Brush. *7:45 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. (810) 923–5860.*

20 TUESDAY

★**"Alfred Cortot: His Life and Recordings": U-M School of Music.** Indiana University music school director Karen Taylor discusses this acclaimed 20th-century pianist best known for his intuitive interpretations of Chopin and Schumann. *11:30 a.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Chinese Studies.** *Every Tuesday beginning January 20.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Free sandwiches, cookies, & coffee served. Today: U-M anthropology and history professor Yiching Wu discusses **"Coping with Crisis in the Wake of the Cultural Revolution: Toward a Historical Critique of China's Postsocialist Condition."** Also this month: U-M English professor David Porter on **"Gendered Utopias in Chinese Porcelains and English Women's Writings of the 17th Century"** (Jan. 27). *Noon–1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6308.*

★**Tobias Wolff: Hopwood U-M Underclassmen Awards Ceremony.** Reading by this celebrated writer, author of the memoir *This Boy's Life,* the short story collection *In the Garden of the North American Martyrs,* the novel *Old School,* and other acclaimed works. Wolff is "a genius at locating the truths revealed by lies . . . the otherwise inexpressible realities that lies give voice to," says a *Slate* reviewer of his new short story collection *Our Story Begins. 3:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–6296.*

★**"Drummunity!"** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. *7–9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore, 114 S. Main. Free. 426–7818.*

★**"Depression During Childbearing Years: Strategies for Prevention, Intervention, and Raising Resilient Children": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by U-M Center for Human Growth and Development developmental psychologist Kate Rosenblum, followed by a panel discussion with Depression Center experts. Q&A. *7–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★**Susan Santone: American Association of University Women.** This Creative Change Educational Solutions (Ypsilanti) director discusses academic and career paths in environmentalism. *7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. Free. 973–1587.*

★**Southeastern Michigan Chapter of the American Truck Historical Society.** All invited to join a discussion about trucks. *7 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Free. 483–2799.*

★**Nami Mun: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This Hopwood-winning U-M creative writing grad reads from her semiautobiographical debut novel ***Miles from Nowhere,*** the story, set in 1980s New York City, of a 13-year-old Korean American girl who flees her dysfunctional family for a life on the streets. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Writers Reading at Sweetwaters.** 2008 Ann Arbor Poetry Slam champion **Michael Moriarty** reads from his new collection, *The Ill Lad and the Odd MC.* Followed by open-mike readings for poets and other creative writers. *7–9 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 369–2798.*

"What's in It for Me? Women and the Value of Community Service": American Business Women's Association Maia Chapter. Talk by Nonprofit Enterprise at Work program associate Yodit Mesfin Johnson. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by dinner and networking. *7:15 p.m., Weber's Inn, 3050 Jackson Rd. $18 (includes dinner). Preregistration required. 972–6390.*

★**"Michigan's Pigeon River: History and Habitat of the Lower Peninsula's Largest Wild Place": Sierra Club.** Dale Franz discusses his book, *Pigeon River Country,* about how to deal with environmental crises and provide clean energy. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free.*

★**"Inaugural Ball": Braun Court.** Dancing to recorded music to celebrate the new presidential administration. *9 p.m.–2 a.m., Sh\aut\ Cabaret & Gallery and \aut\ Bar, Braun Court. Free admission. 994–3677.*

21 WEDNESDAY

★**Brown Bag Organ Series: U-M School of Music.** Recital by Toledo organist **Shin-Ae Chun** on the recently installed James Walgreen Organ. Bring a bag lunch. *12:15 p.m., SPH Community Room, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–0594.*

★**Lecture Series: U-M Center for Korean Studies.** *Jan. 21 & 28.* Today: Columbia University Korean history professor Semi Oh on **"Playing in the Colony: Gramophone and Nonsense in Colonial Seoul."** Also this month: U-M history professor Deborah Solomon on **"Student Unrest, Identity, and the Internal Dynamics of the Korean Colonial Classroom"** (Jan. 28). *4–6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–1825.*

"African Americans in the White House Dinner": Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young hosts a dinner with a menu reflecting the culinary contribution, beginning with Washington's enslaved cook Hercules, that African Americans made in the White House, and guest culinary historian **Adrian Miller,** a Southern Foodways Alliance board member who currently works as deputy legislative assistant to Colorado governor Bill Ritter, chronicles the role African Americans have played in the household, planning menus, cooking, and organizing events. *7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. $45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663–FOOD.*

"Star Gazing: Field Astronomy": U-M Astronomy Department. A speaker TBA gives a talk about astronomy. Followed by guided naked-eye stargazing. Hot chocolate and cookies. *7–8:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. $5 (kids, $2; U-M students, free). Reservations required. 647–7600.*

★**"'Imagine Futures': Does the LGBTI Community in Africa Have Reason to Celebrate?": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Talk by Nigerian human rights activist and avid blogger **Sokari Ekine.** *7 p.m., SSWB Educational Conference Center, 1080 South University. Free. 764–7224.*

★**Works-in-Progress Series: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** Featured writers read from their current work. Tonight: poetry readings by U-M creative writing lecturers **Delia DeCourcy** and **Jennifer Metsker.** *7–9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665–2757.*

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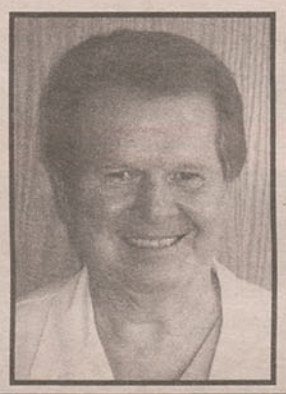

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21 WEDNESDAY *continued*

★Khaled Mattawa: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This U-M creative writing professor, a Pushcart Prize–winning translator and anthologist of Arabic poetry, reads from ***Amorisco,*** his new collection of poems, set mostly in his native North Africa, of personal and cultural love and loss. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★"Wandering Around Australia": Pittsfield Union Grange. Grange member Joan Hellmann gives a slide-illustrated talk about her recent trip. Preceded at 6:30 p.m. by a potluck (bring a dish to pass; table service provided). *7:15 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). Free. 769–1052.*

★"Wanderings in Mexico": Washtenaw Audubon Society. Slide-illustrated talk by EMU biology instructor and *Birds of Washtenaw County* coauthor Mike Kielb, one of the club's most popular speakers. *7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 677–3275.*

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

22 THURSDAY

★"Rapture: Religious Ecstatics and 'Deep Listeners' ": Ann Arbor Area Piano Teachers Guild. Talk by U-M musicology professor Judith Becker. *10 a.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 665–5346.*

"Owl's Winter": Wild Swan Theater. *Jan. 22–24.* This award-winning local children's theater presents its adaptation of Arnold Lobel's *Owl at Home*. Owl encounters strange bumps at the foot of his bed, is awakened by a noisy cricket, and wonders why the moon seems to follow him when he's out for a stroll. As with all Wild Swan productions, the performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage "touch" tours are available for blind audience members by prearrangement. Suitable for kids in grades Pre-K to 2. *10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (children & seniors, $8; lap passes for kids age 2 & under, $3) in advance and at the door. 995–0530.*

★Noon Lecture Series: U-M Center for Japanese Studies. *Jan. 22 & 29.* Talks by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: Princeton University scholar Levi McLaughlin on **"How to Cultivate a Mass Movement: Ethnographic and Historical Perspectives on Soka Gakkai, Japan's Largest Active Religion."** Also this month: Leiden (The Netherlands) University Japanese and Korean studies professor Katarzyna Cwiertka on **"Beyond Hunger: Food in Wartime Japan"** (Jan. 29). *Noon, 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–6307.*

★"(Re)Creating Gilgamesh: The Artistic and Technical Exploration of an Ancient Epic": U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series. Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh and Syrian-Armenian painter Kevork Mourad discuss their upcoming performance (see 23 Friday). *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

Annual Meeting: Washtenaw County Conservation District. Buffet dinner and a talk by Michigan writer Jan Arnett on **"Barn Preservation."** Also, awards for best conservation farming and best tree conservation. *6:30 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd., Saline. $10 (kids age 12 & under, $5) in advance and at the door. Preregistration required. 761–6721, ext. 5.*

★"Lost Boys of Sudan": Ann Arbor District Library. Screening of Jon Shenk and Megan Mylan's 2004 PBS documentary about 2 young men out of the thousands of young Dinka boys and girls orphaned and made refugees during Sudan's brutal 20-year Civil War. Followed by a discussion led by **Jacob Atem,** an orphaned Sudanese boy who has since started the Southern Sudan Healthcare Organization, and U-M Community Scholars Program faculty and students. *6:30–8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Indiana. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★"Craft Night": Mothers and More. All moms invited to bring craft projects to work on and discuss crafts and hobbies. *7–9 p.m., location TBA. Free. 527–6880.*

The Killers: EMU Convocation Center. Best-selling postpunk indie rock quartet from Las Vegas. "Like their hometown of Las Vegas, the Killers have a flair for anything supersize, sparkly, and over-the-top: soaring synth-pop operas, multipart arena-rock anthems, "Bohemian Rhapsody"-style choirs," says *Rolling Stone* writer Melissa Maerz in her review of the band's new CD *Day & Age*. Opening act is **M83,** a French neo-shoegazer pop-rock band. *7:30 p.m., EMU Convocation Center, 799 N. Hewitt (north off Washtenaw), Ypsilanti. Tickets $35 in advance at the EMU Convocation Center and at the door. 487–2282.*

★Robert Satterlee: EMU Music Department. This Bowling Green State University piano professor performs Mozart's Sonata in F Major, Liszt's Sonata in B Minor, Tom Flaherty's *Riverwing*, and 3 works by Faure. *8 p.m., EMU Alexander Bldg. Organ Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

Omri Shimron & David Peshlakai: Kerrytown Concert House. Elon University piano professor Shimron and Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra cellist Peshlakai perform Beethoven's *Twelve Variations on a Theme from Handel's "Judas Maccabaeus"* and Britten's Sonata for Cello and Piano in C Major. Peshlakai also plays Bach's Suite no. 2 in D Minor. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. *Every Wed.–Sun., Jan. 22–Mar. 21.* Guy Sanville directs Tennessee Williams's Pulitzer Prize–winning tragedy about Blanche DuBois, an emotionally fragile southern belle who moves into a squalid New Orleans tenement with her sister and brutish brother-in-law. One of Williams's most famous plays, *Streetcar* offers a definitive treatment of one of his most obsessive themes—the psychological destruction of a self-deluded central character full of aristocratic pretensions and unable to cope with the brute realities of life. Stars Michelle Mountain, Qarie Marshall, and Charlyn Swarthout. *8 p.m., Purple Rose, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Jan. 22–29 previews: $20 (Wed. & Thurs.) & $25 (Fri.–Sun.). After Jan. 29: Tickets $25 (Sun. eves., Wed. & Thurs.), $33 (Sat. & Sun. matinees), & $38 (Fri. & Sat. eves.) in advance and at the door. 433–7673.*

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jimmy Dore: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 22–24.* This popular comic, who grew up in Chicago in a large Catholic working-class family, is a cable and network TV regular known for his clever, provocative, often painfully funny questioning of conventional pieties. His current show, *Citizen Jimmy*, takes on government and the easily misled with an irreverent brio that prompted one critic to call him a "bad-assed Bill Maher with a boulder-sized chip on his shoulder." Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served; the Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $9 (Thurs.) & $12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $11 (Thurs.) & $14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

23 FRIDAY

"Owl's Winter": Wild Swan Theater. See 22 Thursday. 10:30 a.m. & 1 p.m.

★"The Brazilian Automotive Industry in International Context: From European Origins to American Crisis": U-M Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies. Talk by Federal University of Rio de Janeiro history professor Flavio Limoncic. *Noon, 1644 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647–0844.*

Family Shabbat Dinner: Jewish Community Center Early Childhood Center. Kids age 5 & under invited with their families for dinner, with a program presented by ECC kids and a sing-along. *6–7:30 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $12 (kids age 2 & older, $6). Reservations required by Jan. 19. 971–0990.*

Parents' Night Out: Ann Arbor YMCA. Parents can drop off their kids ages 2–10 for dinner, games and sports, and (age 5 & older only) a dip in the pool. *6:15–10 p.m., YMCA, 400 W. Washington. $30 (members, $25). Preregistration required. 661–8012.*

"Gilgamesh": University Musical Society. *Jan. 23 & 24.* Award-winning Syrian clarinetist Kinan Azmeh plays Arab-inspired improvisations, using computer technology to layer the music, while Syrian-Armenian painter Kevork Mourad creates illustrations—projected onto a large screen—based on *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, the ancient Mesopotamian epic poem about the mythological hero-king Gilgamesh and his search for immortality. At the story's climax, Mourad's drawing gives way to a prerecorded animation. "The audience held its breath as the characters in the painting danced, violently battled, then made peace and walked away hand-in-hand, while coordinating carefully with Azmeh's music," says a *Juilliard Journal* reviewer. *7 & 9 p.m., U-M Biomedical Science Research Bldg., 109 Zina Pitcher Place. $30 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department. See 16 Friday. Today: prose by **Shira Handler** and poetry by **Carly Harschlip.** 7 p.m.

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

Fusion unafraid of sentiment

There's a new fusion genre emerging in folk music, so far without a name. You could call it chamber folk, by analogy with chamber pop, a streak of quiet indie rock that uses orchestral instruments. Some of it turned up on *A Prairie Home Companion* a few weeks back, with the prodigiously talented mandolinist Chris Thile joining the *Appalachian Journey* bassist Edgar Meyer in arrangements that gave Meyer, bowing the bass, a lot to do.

Folk, jazz, and pop are longtime partners. The new fusion adds classical music to the mix, with intricate arrangements that make the accompanying instruments into full participants in the texture. In the pairing of Scots fiddler Alasdair Fraser and American cellist Natalie Haas, the new music seems full of possibilities.

The genre's roots are in the progressive bluegrass and new acoustic music of the American West Coast, but the variant developed by Fraser, a giant of tradition-based Scots fiddling, has the advantage of being able to lay the emotion on a bit thicker. The duo typically deploy Fraser on a traditional-sounding tune (actually, most of their music is original), with Haas adding a syncopated rhythm and then taking off into melodic counterpoint or jazzy elaboration propelled by the basic rhythmic contrast. But they leave plenty of room to circle back to lyrical interludes played in long-note harmonies, and the slow pieces have a fine dose of sentiment missing in music by the likes of Darol Anger.

Fraser and Haas offer a combination of cool sophistication and traditional ethos that has gained them a growing cadre of fans. Drive around the Northeast, where folk music holds a bigger slice of the public radio schedule than it does here, and you'll likely hear Fraser and Haas often.

Fraser came from Scotland to California and started a Scots fiddling school called Valley of the Moon, where Haas, a graduate of the Juilliard School, became his student. They've been at this for about five years, long enough to know the ins and outs of each other's musical minds. Fraser points out that the use of a fiddle and cello together in Scots music was actually common in the eighteenth century, when the first efforts to collect Scotland's heritage of melody were in flower. So it may be that, as with other musicians and scholars from the British Isles, he found a deeper layer of the tradition by coming across the sea.

Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas come to the Ark on Saturday, January 24.

—James M. Manheim

★**"Astronomy of the 21st Century" Lecture Series: U-M Astronomy Department.** Talk by U-M Mohler Prize recipient **Charles Steidel,** a California Institute of Technology astronomy professor who specializes in the study of galaxy formation. *7:30 p.m., 1800 Chemistry, 930 North University. Free. 763–4190.*

The Cool Moose Orchestra: Canterbury House. Ensemble of talented local middle and high school jazz musicians led by Glenn Tucker. *8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron. $10 (students, $5). 764–3162.*

Ellen Rowe Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. Jazz quartet led by U-M jazz piano professor Rowe. Rowe's newest CD, *Denali Pass,* is a musical tribute to her ascent of Mount McKinley in Denali National Park in 2004. Noted composer-pianist Geri Allen calls the album "a beautifully balanced and inspired journey that showcases [Rowe's] abilities as a strong conceptualist pianist." With saxophonist Andrew Bishop, bassist Kurt Krahnke, and drummer Pete Siers. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $10, $15, & $25 (students, $5). Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

The Juggernaut Jug Band: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church). Traditional jug band music by this acclaimed quartet from Louisville, the birthplace of jug bands. A mixture of classic jazz and blues, jug band music is a swaggering party music, full of high spirits and sexual humor, performed by a modified string band that includes kazoos and other wind instruments, washboard, and, of course, a stoneware jug, an instrument from which a good musician can coax a surprisingly lyrical, hauntingly reverberant sound that's been compared to a bow drawn across the strings of an upright bass. Desserts & coffee available. *8 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. $15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665–8558.*

"Patty Hearst": Blackbird Theatre. *Jan. 23 & 24.* Barton Bund directs a staged reading of his new musical based on the 1974 kidnapping of heiress Patty Hearst. The story follows Hearst's brainwashing by the Symbionese Liberation Army and subsequent deprogramming by family members, lawyers, and psychiatrists that amounted to another type of brainwashing. *8 p.m., Blackbird Theatre. Tickets $20 (seniors, $15; students, $10) in advance at blackbirdtheatre.org and at the door. 332–3848.*

Vince Averill, Jesse Popp, Matt McCarthy, & Greg Johnson: Riverside Arts Center. *Jan. 23 & 24.* Stand-up comedy by these popular New York-based comics. Averill has a smart, understated style that usually revolves around quirky urban types like "super old yoga lady" and the homeless guy with better clothes than his own. Popp's routines make fun of the mundane—horoscopes, infomercials, and the disappointments of becoming a "grown-up." McCarthy's energetic style complements his no-holds-barred indictment of stupidity. Johnson's routines revolve around stories from his own life, from skipping work to play video games to being disappointed in the pub-

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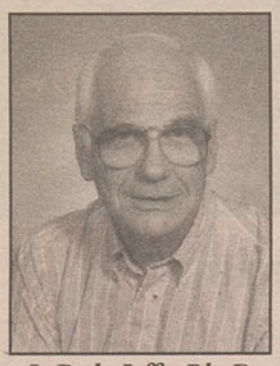

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23 FRIDAY *continued*

lic library's CD collection. *8 p.m., Riverside Arts Center, 76 N. Huron, Ypsilanti. Tickets $12 in advance at brownpapertickets.com and at the door. 480–ARTS.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 22 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Jimmy Dore: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 22 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Armenian Hye Hop: U-M Armenian Students Cultural Association. Dancing to a DJ and live music by an ensemble led by oud player Mark Gavoor. Buffet dinner, raffle, and cash bar. Proceeds benefit the Mer Doon orphanage in Armenia. *8:30 p.m.–1 a.m., Polo Fields Country Club, 5200 Polo Fields Dr. $35 (students, $25) in advance from ssimonia@umich.edu & altoumaj@umich.edu, and at the door. (248) 790–2412, (248) 224–2443.*

★**"Klondyke Winter Dance Party": \aut\ Bar.** All women invited for dancing to recorded music. *9 p.m.–2 a.m., \aut\ Bar, 315 Braun Ct. Free admission. 994–3677.*

24 SATURDAY

21st Annual Farm Toy Show: Saline Future Farmers of America. This show and sale of farm toys is aimed at both kids and serious collectors. Includes NASCAR items, tractors, pedal-push tractors, Beanie Babies, and farm vehicle, harvesting vehicle, and truck collectibles. Vendor tables available. *9 a.m.–3 p.m., Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. Admission $3 (ages 6–12, $2; age 5 & under, free). 429–8030, ext. 2343.*

★**"Beyond Earth: Exploring Outer Space! Look Up at the Sky": U-M Exhibit Museum/Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades K–5 (accompanied by an adult) invited to learn how to read star maps, identify constellations, make a sundial, and more. In conjunction with Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads 2009 (see 29 Thursday listing). *10–11 a.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard), 2–3 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3334 Traver at Huron Pkwy. 327–4200.*

"Fabliscious": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Chelsea Sadler directs Kimberly Yost and Patrick Farrell's musical adaptation and modernization of several classic Aesop stories, including "The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Ant and the Grasshopper," "The Fox and the Grapes," "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," and more. Cast: Scott Longpre, Mori Richner, Jeremy Salvatori, Tiffany Jones. *11 a.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets $10 (youth 16 & under, $7) in advance at performancenetwork.org & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663–0681.*

"Owl's Winter": Wild Swan Theater. See 22 Thursday. 11 a.m.

★**American Girl Club: Barnes & Noble.** All girls ages 8–12 invited to learn about the newest American Girl character, Julie Albright, and make a paper doll outfit. Also, games and a color combination challenge. *1 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Space limited; reservations required. 973–1618.*

★**Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration: U-M Turner Geriatrics Center.** All seniors invited to join longtime Turner volunteer Dorothy Mack to celebrate the legacy of MLK with inspirational, soul-stirring words and music. The program includes a talk by speakers TBA. Refreshments. *1–3 p.m., Turner Senior Resource Center, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998–9353.*

"Bats of the World": Waterloo Natural History Association. Multimedia presentation by representatives of the Organization for Bat Conservation. *2 p.m., Eddy Discovery Center, Bush Rd. (west from Pierce Rd. off I-94 exit 157), Chelsea. $2 (family, $5). $6 vehicle entrance fee. 475–3170.*

★**"Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time": Ann Arbor District Library.** Central Asia Institute and Pennies for Peace cofounder **Greg Mortenson** discusses his award-winning best-seller about his experiences in often volatile areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, where over the course of 15 years he established over 78 schools. The book has recently been published in an edition adapted for young readers, *Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Journey to Change the World . . . One Child at a Time,* and an a picture book for very young readers, *Listen to the Wind: The Story of Dr. Greg and Three Cups of Tea.* Signing. *6–7:30 p.m., Huron High School auditorium, 2727 Fuller Rd. at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4555.*

"Kids Night Out!": Jewish Community Center. All kids ages 5–10 invited for a pizza and veggie dinner, Dr. Seuss-themed crafts and games, and a

screening of *Horton Hears a Who,* the 2008 animated adaptation of the Dr. Seuss story about a friendly elephant who comes to the aid of an endangered community living on a tiny speck. *6:30–10 p.m., JCC gym, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $24 (members, $20), $22 (members, $18) for each additional sibling. Reservations required. 971–0990.*

Royal Shakespeare Company, Michael Boyd, and Ralph Williams: University Musical Society Ford Honors Program. RSC actors perform an excerpt from *Henry V,* Shakespeare's sly-humored history play about the nature of political power and authority. Also, RSC artistic director Boyd and U-M English professor Williams, both recipients of the 2009 UMS Distinguished Artist Award, speak about their past collaborative projects. Followed by video tributes and a performance TBA in honor of Boyd and Williams. The program is followed by a gala dinner fund-raiser ($300 & up). *6 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets $30–$70 (students, $20) in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229. For gala tickets, call 764–8489.*

Chinese New Year's Celebration: Ann Arbor Chinese Center of Michigan. This festive all-day party kicks off with kids crafts, followed at 4 p.m. by student performances. Also, a buffet dinner (6 p.m.) and a family-friendly movie (8 p.m.). *7–8:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets $12 (kids ages 4–11, $6; kids age 4 and under, free) in advance and at the door. 769–9068.*

"Gilgamesh": University Musical Society. See 23 Friday. 7 & 9 p.m.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. MSU. *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Northwestern. *8 p.m., Crisler Arena. $15 & $22. 764–0247.*

International Folk Dancing. Dancing to recorded music. The program begins with a dance lesson. *8–11 p.m., Gretchen's House, 2625 Traver. $3–$5 (students, $1–$3) donation. 995–0011.*

4th Saturday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Caller John Freeman with music by Marty Somberg & Friends. No partner needed. All dances taught. Beginner lessons at 7:30 p.m. Wear a costume or cool, casual clothes, and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94). $9. 730–6919.*

"The Magic Flute": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra accompanies the local **Vocal Arts Ensemble** and 3 young singers from the **Ann Arbor Youth Chorale** in a semistaged production of Mozart's beloved "opera fantaisie." At once a love story, a whimsical comedy, and an adventure filled with sinister deceptions, *The Magic Flute* is above all an unsurpassed celebration, by turns jubilant and unsettlingly haunting, of the power of music. Stars Rebekah Nye, Stephen West, Alice Pierce, John Shuffle, Jennifer Larson, and Matthew Garret. *8 p.m., Michigan Theater. $5–$47 (includes discounts for seniors, kids age 12 & under, and middle and high school students) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron suite 470) and a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

"Patty Hearst": Blackbird Theatre. See 23 Friday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 22 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Jimmy Dore: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 22 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

Vince Averill, Jesse Popp, Matt McCarthy, & Greg Johnson: Riverside Arts Center. See 23 Friday. 8 p.m.

25 SUNDAY

"A Sunday Tea Party": Zingerman's Delicatessen. *Jan. 7 & 21.* All kids ages 5–9 (accompanied by an adult) invited to dress up with fancy hats and gloves for tea, snacks, games, and books. Bring along a doll and a favorite book to read. Adults welcome to stay with the kids or adjourn to the cafe to read the Sunday paper. *10–11:30 a.m., Zingerman's Next Door (upstairs kids room), 422 Detroit St. $40 per child. Space limited; reservations required. 663–3354.*

★"3rd Annual Worst Day of the Year Ride": Wheels in Motion Cycle and Fitness. All invited to join rides of 40 miles, 20–25 miles, 12 miles, and 6 miles around Ann Arbor. Also, a mountain bike ride, with distance dependent on the trail conditions. All rides end up at Arbor Brewing for some free snacks. (Buy your own drinks.) Prizes & giveaways. *1 p.m. (40-mile & 20–25-mile rides), 1:30 p.m. (mountain bike ride), 2 p.m. (12-mile ride), & 2:30 p.m. (6-mile ride), meet at the Farmers' Market, Detroit St. at N. Fifth Ave. Reservations requested by Jan. 16. Free. 971–2121.*

★"The Civil War Through Art": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County. Talk by EMU art professor Richard Rubenfeld. Also, a speaker TBA discusses his experiences as a **"Civil War Reenactor."** *1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483–2799.*

★"Exploring the West Lake Preserve": Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through one of the county's newest natural area preserves. *2–4 p.m., meet on the north side of Waterloo Rd. between Werkner and McKinley (east of M-52), Chelsea. Free. 971–6337, ext. 334.*

★"George Kelly's 'The Show Off' ": Ann Arbor District Library. U-M drama professor Leigh Woods discusses this early-20th century American playwright and director and his comic masterpiece. In conjunction with a U-M production of the play in February. *2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–4555.*

★Ann Arbor Storytellers Guild. All invited to listen to guild members swap stories or bring their own to tell. *2–4 p.m., Nicola's Books, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971–5763.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 22 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

Team USA: USA Hockey National Team Development Program. See 11 Sunday. Today: **Team USA Under-18 vs. Mahoning Valley** (Boardman, Ohio) Phantoms of the North American Hockey League. 3 p.m.

"Mozart's Magnificent Voyage": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra. The orchestra is joined by the Chicago orchestra Classical Kids Live! in a family-friendly performance of over 24 Mozart excerpts, including several from *The Magic Flute* (see 24 Saturday). As the musicians play, 2 actors portray historical incidents in Mozart's life. Preceded at 2:30 p.m. in the lobby by performances by members of the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, a "string instrument petting zoo," crafts, and other kids activities. *4–5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets $12 (kids, $5) in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron suite 470) and a2so.com, and at the door. 994–4801.*

Richard Goode: University Musical Society. This acclaimed pianist has gained widespread recognition as a soloist, especially for his passionate, sensitive performances of Beethoven, which cause many listeners to feel as if they are hearing the familiar works for the first time. Goode's nonconformist attributes include an often rumpled appearance, the habit of sometimes singing along as he plays, and an unconventional, deeply personal interpretation of the classical piano repertoire. "It is virtually impossible to walk away from one of Goode's recitals without having gained some new insight, subtle or otherwise, into the works he played, or about pianism itself," says a *New York Times* reviewer. Program: Bach's French Suite no. 5 in G Major and preludes and fugues from *Das Wohltemperirte Clavier,* as well as Chopin mazurkas, nocturnes, waltzes, and other Chopin works. *4 p.m., Hill Auditorium. $10–$56 in advance the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★Society of Women Engineers Book Club: Liberty Borders. All invited to join a discussion of ***Ghostwalk,*** Rebecca Stott's thriller about a woman who believes Isaac Newton's ghost is haunting her as she tries to finish a dead Cambridge historian's manuscript about Newton's alchemical experiments. *6–8 p.m., Borders cafe, 612 E. Liberty. Free. 668–7652.*

26 MONDAY

★"String Instrument Petting Zoo": Ann Arbor District Library. Shar Music representatives demonstrate the violin, viola, cello, and bass for preschoolers, who also get a chance to try out the instruments themselves. Also, an instrument-oriented craft activity. *10:30–11:30 a.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327–8301.*

★Chinese New Year Celebration: Barnes & Noble. All kids ages 4 & 5 invited for a storytime, craft activity, and other fun. *11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3245 Washtenaw. Free. Space limited; reservations required. 973–1618.*

★Bill Ayers: Shaman Drum Bookshop. This University of Illinois education professor, a semicontroversial figure in the recent presidential campaign, reads from ***Fugitive Days: Memoirs of an Antiwar Activist,*** his widely acclaimed memoir of his well-to-do upbringing, his politicization at the U-M, and his experience as a Weather Underground fugitive and its aftermath. Also, Ayers is joined by his wife and fel-

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The public is invited to attend an interactive session with Jay Carp, the author of "Cold War Confessions" and "The Gift of Ruth." He will appear here on Thursday, January 22, at 2:30 pm. Please call Janine by January 20 to reserve a seat for this free event.

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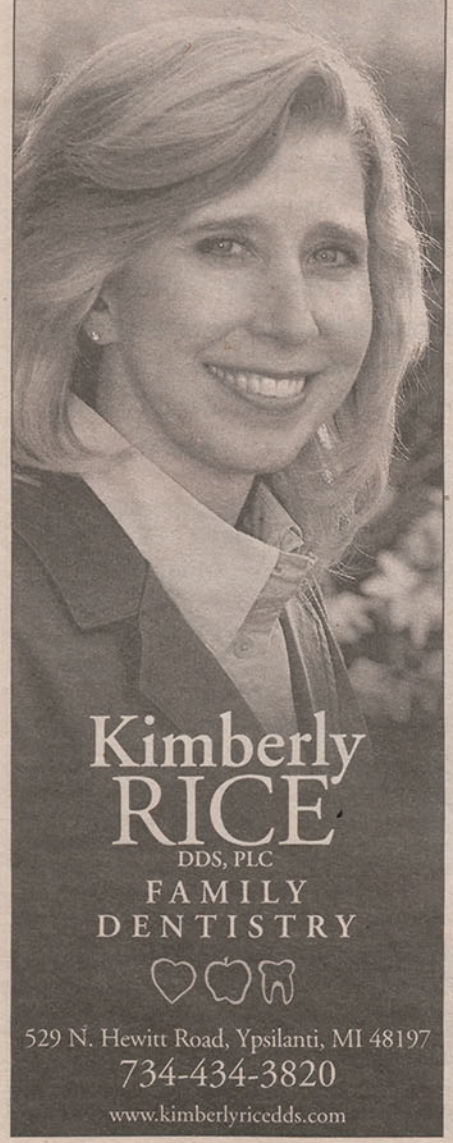

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low former Weather Underground militant, Northwestern University law professor **Bernadine Dohrn,** for a reading from their new book ***Race Course: Against White Supremacy.*** Signing. *7 p.m., 100 Hatcher Graduate Library, 920 North University. Free. 662–7407.*

27 TUESDAY

★**"Islam and the Armenians: Paradigms of a Near Eastern Dialectic": U-M Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies.** Talk by St. Nersess Armenian Seminary (New Rochelle, New York) professor Seta Dadoyan. *4–5 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764–0350.*

★**"The Sea Is So Wide and My Boat Is So Small: Charting a Course for the Next Generation": U-M Ford School of Public Policy Citigroup Foundation Lecture.** Children's Defense Fund founder and director **Marian Wright Edelman** discusses her new book. Attendees receive a free copy of the book. *4–5:30 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom. Free. 615–3893.*

★**"Mediterranean Modernisms: Towards a New Mediterranean Identity": U-M Modern Greek Program.** Lecture by Brown University comparative literature professor Marinos Pourgouris. *4–6 p.m., 2175 Angell Hall. Free. 764–0360.*

★**"U.S.-China Relations in the Obama Administration: Continuities and Changes": U-M Business School.** Talk by U-M political science professor Ken Lieberthal, a former National Security Council senior director for Asia in the Clinton administration. *5 p.m., Business School Blau Auditorium, 701 Tappan. Free. 647–3646.*

★**Capoeira: Ann Arbor Community Recreation & Education.** Detroit capoeira instructor Van "Manhoso" Robins demonstrates this Brazilian martial arts dance. *6 p.m., Scarlett Middle School, 3300 Lorraine (off Platt south of Packard). Free. Preregistration required. 994–2300, ext. 53233.*

★**"Creating a Green Home: New/Remodel/Addition": Washtenaw Community College.** Talks by Architectural Resource designer **Michael Klement,** Environmental House manager **Jason Bing,** and Christian Tennant Custom Homes representative **Leino Pakala.** *6–7:30 p.m., WCC Health & Fitness Center, 4833 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 973–3500.*

★**Alan Krohn: Shaman Drum Bookshop.** This local psychoanalyst reads from his debut novel ***The Mind's Eye,*** the story of a troubled psychoanalyst whose world begins to fly apart when his wife and his daughter both disappear and secrets from his past begin to resurface. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Vocal Solo & Ensemble Recital: Pioneer High School.** Members of the Pioneer High School choirs perform songs TBA. *7 p.m., PHS Little Theater, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994–2120.*

28 WEDNESDAY

★**"Getting to the Heart of the Matter: Psychobiological Origins of Cardiovascular Disease": U-M School of Public Health.** Lecture by University of Pittsburgh psychiatry, epidemiology, and psychology professor Karen Matthews. *3 p.m., 1690 SPH, 109 S. Observatory. Free. 764–8094.*

"Nature Trivia Night": Leslie Science and Nature Center. Dinner followed by a nature trivia game with prizes for winning teams. Bring your own team or come join one. Prizes. Adults only. *6–9 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. $20. 997–1075.*

★**"Educate Sudan's Children": St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church.** Talk by Sudanese humanitarian Buthaina Hassan. *6:30–8:30 p.m., St. Francis, 2250 E. Stadium. Free. 668–6432.*

★**Ypsilanti–Ann Arbor Area Robotics Club.** All invited to meet robotics hobbyists and check out and informally discuss their current gadgets and toys. *7 p.m., A2 Mech Shop, 240 Parkland Plaza, 179 Little Lake Dr. (off eastbound Jackson between Wagner & Zeeb). Free. 332–1000.*

★**"The Guardian Building: Cathedral of Finance": Shaman Drum Bookshop.** Detroit Institute of Arts associate curator discusses his new book about the construction of the opulent block-long 1929 Detroit skyscraper. Signing. *7 p.m., Shaman Drum, 315 S. State. Free. 662–7407.*

★**Eric Lamb: EMU Music Department.** Recital by this New-York-based flutist, a member of the International Contemporary Ensemble. Program TBA. *7 p.m., EMU Alexander Bldg. Organ Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487–2255.*

★**"Staring into Space: The Telescopes of Modern Astronomy": U-M Exhibit Museum.** Talk by U-M astronomy professor Mario Mateo. *7:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764–0478.*

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 22 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

29 THURSDAY

★**"Galileo's Battle for the Heavens": U-M Astronomy Department/Harlan Hatcher Graduate Library.** Screening of this 2002 documentary about Galileo's difficulties with the Roman Catholic Church. *12:10 p.m., U-M Hatcher Library Gallery, Room 100. Free. 615–3194.*

★**"Peace and Order in the Crosshairs: Everyday Life in Soviet and American Nuclear Cities": U-M Center for Russian & East European Studies.** Talk by University of Maryland-Baltimore County history professor Kate Brown. *4 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 764–0351.*

★**"Community Narratives": U-M School of Art and Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series.** Talk by U-M graphic design professor **Hannah Smotrich.** *5 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647–2337.*

★**"Calling All Knitters": Ann Arbor District Library.** Knit a Round Yarn Shop knitting experts offer tips for knitters from 4th-graders through adults. *6:30–8:30 p.m., 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327–4200.*

U-M Women's Basketball vs. Ohio State. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena. $3 (youths under 18, $1; U-M students with ID, free). 764–0247.*

★**"In the Wake of Proposition 8: Homosexuality & Black America": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium.** Panel discussion with U-M sociology and African American studies professors TBA. Refreshments. *7 p.m., Michigan Union Pond Room. Free. (310) 303–9870.*

★**"Seeing in the Dark: How Amateur Astronomers Are Discovering the Wonders of the Universe": 2009 Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads.** Veteran best-selling freelance science writer **Timothy Ferris** discusses his award-winning account of the explosion of amateur astronomy. Signing; copies of the book available for purchase. The book has been chosen for the annual Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti Reads communitywide reading program. Other Ann Arbor Reads programs at the library this month include book discussion leader training sessions on Jan. 7, a screening of the PBS documentary *Seeing in the Dark* on Jan. 15, and an introduction to astronomy for kids on Jan. 24 (see listings). *7:30–8:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 327–4555.*

choral music

Chanticleer

A transcendent sound that gets right inside you

The first question you have to ask about Chanticleer—the twelve-voice, all-male choir from San Francisco coming to St. Francis of Assisi Church on Thursday, January 29—is "What do they *actually* sound like?"

"People say the most striking thing about hearing us for the first time is that we sing the full range of mixed choir from soprano to bass," says Matt Oltman, Chanticleer's music director as well as one of its three tenors. "We have six countertenors, male singers using their head voice and upper range, who take the soprano and alto parts, so the sound we're able to achieve is much more homogenous than a mixed choir of men and women. Imagine instead of the different instruments in an orchestra, you had an orchestra of all viols or all flutes or saxophones. It's a beautifully harmonious sound, a transcendent sound that gets right inside you.

"There are distinct differences between men's voices and women's voices," Oltman explains, "and a unique homogeneity of sound in using all men. Many people might have heard all-male choirs before—glee clubs or barbershop quartets—but this is bigger than that. With countertenors that can hit C above the staff and basses that can go to A below the staff, we can sing pretty much anything a mixed choir can sing."

The second question is "What are they singing?" "It's a program of music entirely from North America," continues Oltman, "so as you can imagine, there's great diversity. We've got pieces that sound very European from Mexico from before the Revolution plus some of the best of today's best and brightest composers, including Native Americans, jazz, and gospel."

The Mexican music comes from Chanticleer's third CD of music from the Mexican Baroque—*Mission Road*. "Our first gig back in seventy-eight was in the Mission Dolores," explains Oltman, "and we've always felt really connected to the music of that period. Remember, the Spanish Empire in America went all the way through California, and the music being written here was easily as cool as any being written back in Spain.

"But when the empire in America fell apart, all the missions fell into disrepair," continues Oltman. "Most of the music simply vanished. But some of it was saved in libraries and private collections, and only over the past couple of decades have scholars begun to dig it out. Also, we'll be doing two pieces on the program in Ann Arbor that are from that era but are not on CD—and they're very beautiful."

—James Leonard

"Arcs in Time": U-M Dance Company. *Jan. 29–Feb. 1.* This U-M dance-student company presents a program highlighted by a revival of *Impact,* a major work by **Laura Dean,** a celebrated postmodern choreographer whose works are known for their luminously spare geometric elegance. It is restaged by U-M dance professor **Amy Chevasse,** who danced in the 1985 premiere of *Impact,* which the *New York Times* praised as "dazzlingly intricate in its integration of patterns and original movement," and the U-M Percussion Ensemble performs *Sextet,* the Steve Reich score written for this work. Also, new works by U-M dance professors **Melissa Beck-Matjias, Bill DeYoung, Peter Sparling,** and **Robin Wilson.** Beck-Matjias' *Signifying Nothing* is set to a live performance by her husband, Christian Matjias, of Schubert's Impromptu no. 1 in C Minor, and Sparling's *Door to the River* is a group work set against a video backdrop of water surging over Barton Dam during different seasons. A juxtaposition of human movement and the powerful forces of nature held in check by man-made restraints, the dance uses the sounds of the water as its musical score. Wilson's *Hokey Pokey Women and Honky Tonk Men,* inspired by her work with the Urban Bush Women and Dianne McIntyre, explores shifting emotional terrains through a blend of dance improvisation, wordless vocalization, and live music. DeYoung's *Thinking Twice* is a work for 11 dancers inspired by the life and writings of the modernist German composer Stefan Wolpe, and the score features 3 Wolpe compositions. *7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets $18 & $24 (students, $9) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538.*

Chanticleer: University Musical Society. *See review, p. 58.* Described as "an orchestra of voices," this critically and popularly acclaimed 12-member male chorus from San Francisco performs seamless a cappella renditions of everything from Renaissance madrigals and Chinese folk music to gospel, jazz, and contemporary music by the likes of Peter Schickele and Morton Gould. Tonight's program, "Wondrous Free," features early American hymns such as a traditional Appalachian setting of "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah," European madrigals, Mexican Baroque choral works, Stephen Foster songs, and more. *8 p.m., St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 2250 E. Stadium. $35 & $45 in advance at the Michigan League and ums.org, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764–2538 or (800) 221–1229.*

★Faculty Showcase Concert: U-M School of Music. See 15 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 22 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Peter Berman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. *Jan. 29–31.* Now based in L.A., this U-M grad is a high-energy performer known for his keen sense of the bizarre realities that lurk beneath the surface of everyday life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. All Friday & Saturday early shows are nonsmoking shows. *8 p.m., old VFW Hall (below Seva restaurant), 314 E. Liberty. $8 (Thurs.) & $11 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, $10 (Thurs.) & $13 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996–9080.*

30 FRIDAY

★12th Annual Sphinx Honors Concert. Young musicians from around the country are featured in works TBA in this national competition for over $100,000 in prizes that supports young African American and Latino classical musicians. The soloists are accompanied by the Sphinx Symphony Orchestra. *Noon–1 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. (313) 877–9100.*

★Pearl Cleage: U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium. Talk by this acclaimed Atlanta writer, author of the best-selling novel *What Looks like Crazy on an Ordinary Day. 1 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. Free. 936–1055.*

★"Ice Carving Extravaganza": Main Street Area Association. *Jan. 30–Feb. 1.* Members of the U-M ice carving team chip huge blocks of ice on the sidewalks into elaborate twinkling sculptures, which remain on display as long as the weather holds. *6–10 p.m. (Jan. 30) & 10 a.m.–6 p.m. (Jan. 31 & Feb. 1), Main Street area. Free. 668–7112.*

32nd Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. *Jan. 30 & 31 (different programs).* A major highlight of the local musical year, with established and rising stars representing a wide spectrum of vernacular musical idioms. Emcee both nights is **Jim Lauderdale,** an acclaimed country singer-songwriter whose songs typically offer an intoxicating blend of Bakersfield backbeat, mountain ache, and edgy romanticism. Tonight's headliners are Wilco founder **Jeff Tweedy,** a pioneering roots-rock/alt-country singer-songwriter whose music has managed to absorb an invigorating range of rock, pop, folk, and even R&B stylings into an alternately rousing and haunting country-rock

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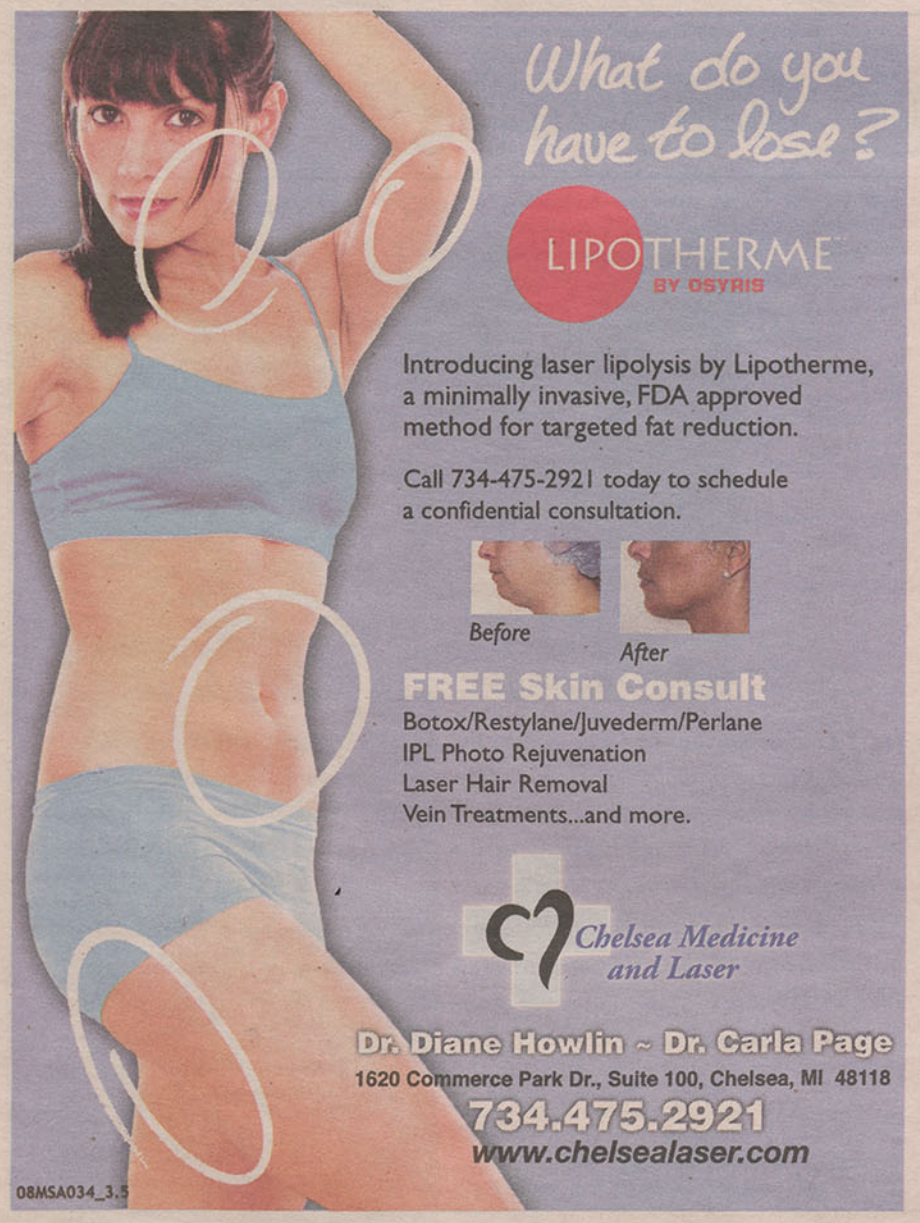

30 FRIDAY *continued*

pulse, and **Old Crow Medicine Show,** a young Nashville-based quintet that plays a wide range of old-time acoustic string band music performed with punk bravura. Also appearing: **Carolina Chocolate Drops** is a young African American string trio that has revived the rich tradition of fiddle and banjo music in the Carolina Piedmont. **Ryan Montbleau Band** is a pop-folk quintet led by the talented young Massachusetts singer-songwriter Montbleau. **Katie Herzig** is a young Nashville folk-rock singer-songwriter, and **Chelsea Williams** is a young alt-folk singer-songwriter from L.A. **The Ragbirds** is an inventive local country-rock band. *6:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets $30–$150 per night and $50–$250 for both nights in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

U-M Men's Gymnastics vs. Iowa. *7 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

★"Mixed": U-M 23rd Annual MLK Symposium. Los Angeles actor Maya Lilly performs her one-woman show about 8 racially diverse characters and their experiences of discrimination. Like Anna Deavere Smith's *Twilight, Mixed* is based on Lilly's interviews with people who have experienced racial discrimination. *7 p.m., Michigan Union Kuenzel Room. Free. (517) 917–7609.*

"On the Verge (or the Geography of Yearning)": Pioneer Theatre Guild. *Jan. 30 & 31.* Alex Leydenfrost and Julia Glander direct Pioneer High School students in Eric Overmyer's one-act comedy about 3 Victorian women explorers who accidentally travel into the future. *7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at Main. $5 at the door only. 994–2191.*

"One-Acts by Moliere": Skyline High School. *Jan. 30 & 31.* Anne-Marie Roberts directs Skyline students in ***The Imaginary Cuckold*** and ***The Flying Doctor,*** 2 high-spirited one-act comedies featuring Moliere's recurring harlequin figure Sganarelle. *7:30 p.m., Skyline High School, 2552 N. Maple. Tickets $5 in advance and at the door. 994–6515.*

5th Friday Fusion Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. Drake Meadow, Neil Epstein, and Mark Hillegonds call a wide variety of dances to music by Twas Brillig and the Mazel Toves. Beginners welcome. Wear cool, casual clothes and bring flat, smooth-soled shoes for dancing. *8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (½ mile south of I-94), Saline. $9 (AACTMAD members, $8; students, $5). 332–7964.*

7th Annual "Wine, Women, & Song": Kerrytown Concert House. *Jan. 30 & 31 and Feb. 1.* An elegant evening of jazz, classical, and cabaret songs showcasing noted local women singers. Accompanied by pianist Jerry Depuit. Singers include Sue Booth, Carolyn Burnstein, Lisa Gray, Shelley MacMillan, Elizabeth Major, Deanna Relyea, Susan Shipman, Monica Swartout-Bebow, and Wendy Bloom. Wine is served. *8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. $15, $20, & $30 per night. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.*

"Arcs in Time": U-M Dance Company. See 29 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 22 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Peter Berman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Fire and Ice": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. *Jan. 30–Feb. 2 (different locations).* Four fiery days of afternoon tango workshops and evening dances kick off tonight with a dance party with recorded music spun by a DJ. Festival passes include admission to daily predance workshops. *Evening time TBA, Michigan League Ballroom. Cost TBA. umich.edu/~umtango.*

31 SATURDAY

★"Annual Winter Stonefly Search": Huron River Watershed Council. All invited to join a watershed-wide hunt for these elusive insects, which become active in winter when fish are sluggish. This is the Watershed Council's most popular event. Bring warm clothes and a hot drink (waterproof shoes not required). *10:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m. or 12–5 p.m., meeting location TBA. Free. Preregistration required by Jan. 16. 769–5971, ext. 11.*

★"The Harmonies of the Sumerian Spheres: On the Music of Ancient Mesopotamia": U-M Stearns Collection. Talk by U-M Near Eastern studies professor Piotr Michalowski. *2 p.m., 506 Burton Memorial Tower. Free. 764–0594.*

"Creative Energy Dance (Fire)": Nightfire. Members of this local dance theater troupe lead participants in a session of freestyle dancing based on everyday movements, with a focus on the theme of the element of fire. *3–5 p.m., location TBA, $5–$20 sliding scale. 996–1772.*

★"The Uninvited Guest": Arborland Borders. Local writer **Teresa Kovalak** is on hand to sign copies of her children's book about a mischievous and charming creature. *3 p.m., Borders, 3527 Washtenaw. Free. 677–6948.*

Puppetry Improv: Dreamland Theater. See 17 Saturday. 3:30 p.m.

★LezRead Lesbian Book Club. All lesbians invited to discuss ***Monstrous Regiment,*** the 31st installment of Terry Pratchett's Discworld fantasy novel series. *4–6 p.m., WRAP Resource Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 663–0036.*

Family Havdalah Celebration: Jewish Community Center. A family-oriented Havdalah service celebrating the closing of Shabbat (the Sabbath), followed by a pizza dinner, craft activities, stories, songs, and a Cranbrook Institute of Science Energy Light Show. *5:30 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). $10 in advance by Jan. 28, $12 after Jan. 28; kids 2 & under, free 971–0990.*

U-M Women's Gymnastics vs. Iowa State. *6 p.m., Crisler Arena, S. State at Hoover. $3 (youths age 12 & under, $1; U-M students, free). 763–2159.*

"Dandia Dhamaka": U-M Raas Core 8th Annual Intercollegiate Indian Dance Competition. The nation's premier intercollegiate competition of traditional Indian raas dance is an extremely lively affair featuring 10 dance teams from around the nation. The fast-paced, playful raas style originated in ancient times in the northwestern Indian state of Gujarat as part of the Navratri festival that honors Hindu goddesses. It involves rotating circles and changing geometric shapes of elaborately dressed male and female singing dancers who pepper the dance with flourishes and gesture with decorated rods known as dandia. *6:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. $13 & $18 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763–TKTS.*

31st Annual Ann Arbor Folk Festival: The Ark. See 30 Friday. Tonight's headliners are 2 icons from different ends of the folk spectrum, the veteran country-folk singer-songwriter **Kris Kristofferson** and **Pete Seeger,** a founding figure in successive folk revivals since the Depression who's still best known for getting his audiences to sing. **Carolina Chocolate Drops** is a young African American string trio that has revived the rich tradition of fiddle and banjo music in the Carolina Piedmont. **Girlyman** is a versatile New York City acoustic singer-songwriter trio known for its politically progressive point of view, quirky stage banter, and inventive 3–part harmonies. **Luke Doucet & the White Falcon** is a Canadian indie folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Doucet. **The Claire Lynch Band** is a bluegrass-based ensemble led by veteran singer-songwriter Lynch. **Misty Lyn & the Big Beautiful** is a local country-pop band led by singer-songwriter Misty Lyn. 6:30 p.m.

U-M Ice Hockey vs. Notre Dame. *7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State at McKinley. $12–$17. 764–0247.*

"On the Verge (or the Geography of Yearning)": Pioneer Theatre Guild. See 30 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"One Acts by Moliere": Skyline High School. See 30 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

The Danish Chocolates: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse. Soulful blues-rock by this local trio led by singer-songwriter Marti Rasmussen. *8–10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. $10 at the door only. 665–0409.*

★Michigan Chamber Players: University Musical Society. This U-M music faculty ensemble is joined by a string quartet from the local **Phoenix Ensemble** in Mendelssohn's Octet in E-flat Major. The Chamber Players also perform Schoenberg's *Pierrot Lunaire* with soprano **Carmen Pelton.** *8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–2538.*

7th Annual "Wine, Women, & Song": Kerrytown Concert House. See 30 Friday. 8 p.m.

"Arcs in Time": U-M Dance Company. See 29 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"A Streetcar Named Desire": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 22 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead": Performance Network Professional Season. See 8 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

Peter Berman: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 29 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

"Fire and Ice": Michigan Argentine Tango Club. See 30 Friday. Evening time TBA, Michigan Union Ballroom.

Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Last-minute changes are always possible, so it's advisable to call ahead. Unless otherwise noted, live music runs from 9:30 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.

Arbor Brewing Company

114 E. Washington **213–1393**

This downtown brewpub features occasional live music, 9 p.m.–midnight unless otherwise noted. No cover, no dancing. **Jan. 3: Mr. Largebeat.** Big-beat space-rock band led by veteran local singer-songwriter Jim Gertz, who plays a theremin (the original synthesizer) and percussion. Opening act is **Madgrass,** a local bluegrass band.

The Ark

316 S. Main **761–1451**

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon.–Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio, the Michigan Union Ticket Office, & all other Ticketmaster outlets; and at the door. **Jan. 3: RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites. They have appeared in numerous festivals and even made the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed,* a 1994 Ark performance. Proceeds benefit the Leslie Science Center, a city parks facility situated on 50 acres of fields, woods, and prairie that provides natural science and environmental education opportunities for kids and their families. $11 at the door only. **Jan. 4: Neil Woodward**. Traditional and original ballads and songs by this Detroit veteran who sings in a thickly textured, soulful voice, accompanying himself on 6- and 12-string guitars, steel guitar, harmonica, mandolin, fiddle, autoharp, whistle, and banjo. Woodward was recently designated "Michigan's Troubadour" by the state legislature. $15. **Jan. 6: Black Jake & the Carnies.** *See review, right.* Ypsilanti octet that calls its energetic, foot-stomping blend of punk, old-time music, and bluegrass "crabgrass." $15. **Jan. 7: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. $3 (members & students, $2). 7:30–10 p.m. **Jan. 8: David Bromberg.** A veteran folkie who recently emerged from semiretirement and released his first recording in 17 years, the acclaimed *Try Me One More Time,* Bromberg is a brilliant entertainer whose style draws on blues, country, early jazz, and even classical music. He's a forceful singer and a first-rate virtuoso on several string instruments, including guitar, mandolin, and violin. His repertoire includes offbeat, often wryly ironic originals and highly personal interpretations of traditional material. "[Bromberg] has such control of his audience that he can, at one moment, hold it in his hand with a tender, touching, yet funny anecdotal song, and then set it romping and stomping with a raucous bit of raunch," says the *New York Times*. He is backed by his band. Opening act is **Angel Band,** a female vocal trio (including Bromberg's wife, Nancy Josephson) with an eclectic repertoire that ranges from old-time mountain music to pop-rock originals. It is backed by a quartet that includes Bromberg and other members of his band. $35. **Jan. 9: Mountain Heart.** Winner of the 1999 International Bluegrass Association Emerging Artist of the Year Award, this bluegrass ensemble blends traditional and progressive styles. Its 2005 CD *The Journey* is a collection of traditional southern gospel tunes, and its 2006 CD *Wide Open* blends originals with songs by well-known country and bluegrass songwriters. The band's new CD, *Road That Never Ends,* was recorded live at the Ark. $20. **Jan. 10: Jill Jack.** Folk-rock band led by this sultry-voiced Detroit singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. Her 2005 CD *Moon and the Morning After* won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Folk Recording. $15. **Jan. 11: Michael Smith.** This veteran English-born singer-songwriter from Chicago is an absorbing, passionate vocalist and compellingly rhythmic guitarist who writes evocative, minutely detailed songs on a variety of personal and philosophical themes. He is best known for "The Dutchman," a song popularized by Steve Goodman, and for his original score for the Steppenwolf Theater Company's 1990 Tony-winning stage adaptation of *The Grapes of Wrath*. He has a new CD, *Love Letters on a Fish*. $15. **Jan. 13: Fiction Family.** Electroacoustic indie rock by the San Diego–based duo of Switchfoot frontman Jon Foreman and Nickel Creek guitarist Sean Watkins. Its eponymous debut CD is due out next week. $15. **Jan. 14: Dan Hicks & the Hot Licks.** Part of a tradition of white hipster singer-songwriters that stretches from Hoagy Carmichael to Mose Allison and Tom Waits, Hicks and his band, the Hot Licks (and Lickettes), perform a retro-hip blend of western swing, ragtime, old-time country, and 40s jazz. His musically eclectic original songs sport wry, offbeat lyrics that totter teasingly between a revelatory humor and wise-guy foolery. $25. **Jan. 15: Jerry Douglas.** This celebrated dobro player, who's best known for his session work with all sorts of country and bluegrass acts, comes to town with his own band to showcase his explorations of the musical spaces where country, bluegrass, rock, blues and even bebop meet and intermingle. $25. **Jan. 16: The Yellow Room Gang.** In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are **David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba,** and **Michael Hough** and **David Tamulevich** of the local duo Mustard's Retreat. The Yellow Room Gang's eponymous compilation CD features brand-new and older songs by each artist. $15. **Jan. 17: Vance Gilbert.** African American singer-songwriter from Cambridge, Massachusetts, who, according to *Boston Globe* reviewer Craig Harris, sings "in a soulful, Al Jarreau–like voice, accompanying himself with heavily syncopated acoustic guitar melodies." Gilbert's songs address a range of topics from the experience of being non-white in America to the hard inner life of single parents, and they are distinguished by a subtle sense of rhythm and a trenchant sense of humor. $15. **Jan. 18: Jeremy Kittel World Band.** This ensemble led by local fiddler Kittel, a U.S. National Scottish Fiddle Champion, performs original music that blends the drive of Celtic fiddling with the spirit of jazz and bluegrass, African and Latin American rhythms, the layered melodies of Eastern European music, and the intricacies of chamber music. With versatile New York guitarist Kyle Sanna, World Music Award–winning percussionist Bodek Janke, and cellist Tristan Clarridge of the alternative-bluegrass band Crooked Still. $15. **Jan. 19: Blind Boys of Alabama.** Founded in the 1940s at Alabama's Talladega Institute for the Deaf and Blind, this chorus is still one of the most celebrated African American gospel singing groups, blending intense, straining vocals with meltingly sweet harmonies. $35. **Jan. 21: Open Stage.** See above. **Jan. 22: Zebula Avenue.** Detroit-based world music septet whose music blends African drumming, jazz, and New Orleans and Celtic music. The band's latest CD, *Life Will Be Fine,* won the 2008 Detroit Music Award for Outstanding World Recording. $13.50. **Jan. 23: The Macpodz.** Immensely popular local jam band that plays an invigorating mix of R&B, soul, rock, and hard jazz it calls "disco bebop." Opening act is **Chris Bathgate** (see Halfass). $15. **Jan. 24: Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas.** *See review, p. 55.* The duo of veteran Scottish fiddler Fraser and young American cellist Haas plays everything from achingly beautiful airs to wild and joyous dance pieces. $20. **Jan. 27: Chris Pureka.** Young pop-folk singer-songwriter from Northampton, Massachusetts. "Chris Pureka's gritty tunes are charged with charm, toe-tapping poetry, and a sexy dose of wit," says singer-songwriter Alix Olson. FREE.

Black Jake & the Carnies

Dark energy from old times

The application of punk energy to the textures and stories of old-time country music has given a jolt of life to both forms. The idea breaks punk out of its self-referential box, connecting it to earlier kinds of physically forceful dancing, and it strips the old-time forms of their accretions of sentimentality and nostalgia. Many bands have mined this lode over the last ten years or so, but Ypsilanti's Black Jake & the Carnies are taking the combination to some new extremes. There's a movement afoot, with branches in both music and the visual arts, that draws on the rough outsider attraction of southern culture's old-time fringe, and the Carnies seem to be part of that.

They call their music "crabgrass," and in a world of catchy labels that one's not bad. The eight-piece band includes the standard bluegrass quintet of banjo, fiddle, mandolin, guitar, and bass. The musicians dress in old-fashioned black coats and ties, and they augment the plucked strings with other old-time sounds like a washboard and a saw. As for the "crab" aspect, their original songs, when you can understand them—only in bits and pieces in live performance—are on the dark side, made up of murder tales and the like. When I heard Black Jake & the Carnies at Ypsilanti's Elbow Room recently, the music didn't feel much like bluegrass, and, as with punk at its best, the atmosphere was loud, communal, and affirming despite all the grim lyrics. Bringing it back in a bluegrass direction, though, was the clockwork ensemble playing.

The songs didn't vary like the waltzes and blues and rags of bluegrass; one followed another with a similar hard-driving energy, with the fast two-four rhythm that runs through old march-based music from polka to ragtime (from which it flowed into old-time country) to early jazz. The songs stretch out for a while, and the band gradually involves the audience physically in an interaction that grows deeper both within individual songs and over the course of the band's set. The musicians jump and move around the stage a good deal, and they throw foam rubber balls into the crowd.

The dancers throw them back at the band, breaking up the usual push-toward-the-stage crush. By the finale, a punked-out version of "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot," some of them have linked arms, and quite a few people are in high-speed motion around the floor. Add in the rubber balls, and what you have is a crowd enveloped in a brilliantly generated high-energy dynamic. Experience it for yourself, perhaps in a more subdued folk-club version, when Black Jake & the Carnies play the Ark on Tuesday, January 6.

—James M. Manheim

The B-Side

310 E. Washington **214–9995**

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7–11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 10: Wild Years.** Local electronic folk-rock band. Opening acts are the Kent, Ohio, experimental pop-rock band **See Urchin,** the local jazz-rock band **Overcast Skies,** and the suburban Detroit pop-folk band **Billy Black & Cotton Lilly. Jan. 16: "Gain DJ Night."** With Neutral Zone and guest DJs. **Jan. 24: "Pop-Punk Show."** With the local teen bands **Vanity Farewell, Echoes, Felix,** and **Medic. Jan. 31: Open Mike.** All poets, writers, rappers, singer, musicians, and comics invited.

The Black Pearl

302 S. Main **222–0400**

This seafood and martini bar features live music Mon. & Wed., 6:30–9:30 p.m., & DJ Sun., 9 p.m.–midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Mon.: Jody Raffoul.** Detroit pop-rock singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid mix of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. **Jan. 7: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Jan. 14: Charlie Lambrick.** Detroit blues-rock singer-guitarist. **Jan. 21: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above. **Jan. 28 & 31:** TBA.

The Blind Pig

208 S. First St. **996–8555**

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7–10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. **Jan. 2: Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Jan. 3: Starzan Dance Party.** Headliner is **King Jazzy,** a Detroit MC whose music blends hip-hop with elements of reggae and electronica. Opening acts are Ypsilanti MC **Yoshi,** Detroit MC **D. Allie,** Grand Rapids MC **La Famiglia,** and DJs **Virus, Bacari,** and **Mary Jane. Jan. 6: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands. **Jan. 7:** TBA. **Jan. 8: Starbrand.** Local drum 'n' bass electronica band. Opening acts are the local jazz-inflected pop-rock quintet **Pear & the Pepper,** the local jam band **Yo! Soul,** and **DJ Bob. Jan. 9 & 10: The Hard Lessons** and **My Dear Disco.** Double bill. **The Hard Lessons** (which headlines the Jan. 9 rock-oriented show) is a nationally acclaimed Detroit trio fronted by vocalist Korin Cox that plays soulful, swaggering guitar- and organ-driven rock 'n' roll, and My Dear Disco (which headlines the Jan. 10 dance-oriented show) is a nationally acclaimed local

dance septet that plays a blend of techno, funk, and jamming known as nu-jazz. Advance tickets: $12 ($15 at the door). **Jan. 13: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Jan. 14: Don't Ask.** Detroit punk band. Opening act is **The Plurals,** a local punk band. **Jan. 15: Alex Brumel & Janel Elizabeth.** New Jersey–based pop-folk singer-songwriter duo. Opening acts are **Charlene Kaye,** a local folk-rock chamber ensemble led by singer-songwriter Kaye, and **Darren Criss,** a local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 16: Mason Proper.** Offbeat local avant-noise pop-rock band. Opening acts are **The Javelins,** a Detroit indie rock trio, and **The Mighty Narwhale,** a Grand Rapids progressive pop-rock septet. **Jan. 17: Aleph-1.** Local progressive electroacoustic trip-hop band. Opening act TBA. **Jan. 20: "Inauguration Party."** With the local punk-folk band **Versificators,** the veteran local punk band **Bantha Fodder,** and other bands TBA. **Jan. 21: Inkface & the Digital Dream.** Ypsilanti electronica-dub trio. Opening acts are the local electronica ensembles **Albino Tarantula Army** and **I Love Dinosaurs,** and the Baltimore electrofusion band **Basshound. Jan. 22: The Satin Peaches.** Commerce, Michigan, rock 'n' roll quartet. Opening acts are **Farewell Republic,** a local neopsychedelic ambient rock quartet, and **Manolete,** a Detroit Latin-flavored indie rock band. **Jan. 23: Starling Electric.** Local retro-psychedelic pop-jam band. Opening acts are **The Great Lakes Myth Society,** a local folk-rock sextet whose music is an eclectic mix of Appalachian music, prog-rock, and sea shanties, and **Lightning Love,** a local keyboard-driven minimalist pop trio. **Jan. 24: Supercontinent.** Local southern rock-metal band. Opening acts are **A Working Model,** a local progressive rock quartet whose influences range from King Crimson to Tool, and the progressive metal bands **Oceans** and **Gannon. Jan. 25: Frightened Rabbit.** *All ages admitted.* Pop-folk trio from Scotland. Opening act is **Right on Dynamite,** an indie rock trio from Brooklyn, New York. 7–10 p.m. Advance tickets: $10 ($12 at the door). **Jan. 27: "Showcase Night."** See above. **Jan. 28:** TBA. **Jan. 29: Souldub.** Reggae-flavored southern rock quartet. Opening acts are the Detroit reggaefied funk-rock quartet **The Orange Marsupials,** the Kalamazoo funk-rock jam band **Essence of Ape,** and **King Jazzy** (see above). **Jan. 30: Great Divide.** Local horn-driven blues-rock and soul septet. Opening act is **Bump,** a Detroit progressive rock quartet. **Jan. 31: One Be Lo.** Local hip-hop MC, also known as One Man Army. Opening act is **Black Milk,** a Detroit hip-hop MC.

Cavern Club

210 S. First St. **332–9900**

This downtown club in the Celebration Cellars basement banquet space features live music on Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, the Millennium Club, a street-level club at the same address, features DJs, 10 p.m.–2 a.m. on most Fri. & Sat. **Jan. 10 & 31: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn.

The Circus

210 S. First St. **913–8890**

This bar located on the top floor of the Cavern Club building features live music Wed.–Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Thurs.** (except. Jan. 1) **& Fri: "Live Rock 'n' Roll Karaoke."** Karaoke with prerecorded rhythm tracks, and live guitars and keyboards by the Hartland trio **Double Take. Jan. 7: The Wild Turkeys.** Bluegrass and country band from Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. **Jan. 14: Joshua Davis & Fool Rooster.** Americana folk-rock originals by this band led by Steppin' in It frontman Davis. **Jan. 21: Luke Winslow-King.** New Orleans–bred singer-songwriter and guitarist who currently lives in Cadillac. **Jan. 28: The Flatbellys.** Lansing bluegrass quartet.

Club Above

215 N. Main **663–7758**

This dance club on the top floor of the Heidelberg restaurant features live music Sat. & Sun., 9:30 p.m.–2 a.m., and live happy hour bands on Fri., 5:30–8:30 p.m. Also, DJs on Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., & Sun. and karaoke on Wed., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover, dancing. Age 21 & over only unless otherwise noted. **Every Sun.: "Mexican Night."** With live Mexican bands TBA. Hosted by DJ Miguel. **Jan. 2** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by Kingpins bassist Randy Tessier and featuring former Map of the World vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis, Steve Earle, and U2. The band has a 4-song minidisk, *Clean House,* an election-year collection that includes 2 originals, a cover of Stephen Stills's 1967 protest classic "For What It's Worth," and an original setting of Auden's 1939 poem "Refugee Song." **Jan. 3: Ben Balmer & Brett Nuelsen.** Local acoustic roots music singer-songwriter duo. **Jan. 9** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Orange Door Hinge.** Local big band led by saxophonist and II-V-I Orchestra frontman David Swain that plays an eclectic mix of everything from funk and disco to Steely Dan and TV cop show themes. **Jan. 10:** Closed. **Jan. 16** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Khalid Hanifi.** Beatlesesque postpunk powerpop by a quintet led by veteran local singer-songwriter Hanifi and featuring guitar wiz George Bedard. **Jan. 17: Plane to Barcelona.** Blues-rock trio. Opening acts are **Words After** and **Stereo Addiction,** an Adrian postpunk powerpop band. **Jan. 23** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Mike Smith & the Cadillac Cowboys.** Veteran local country band led by singer-guitarist Smith. **Jan. 24: Tom Waits Batman.** Local art-rock band. Opening act TBA. **Jan. 30** (5:30–8:30 p.m.)**: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by vocalist Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everything from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. The band's guiding presence seems to be Elvis—including both large chunks of his repertoire and his attitude that any music he did suited him just because he did it. The band also includes guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. **Jan. 31: Bottoms Up.** 80s cover band.

Common Cup

1511 Washtenaw **327–6914**

This coffeehouse run by the University Lutheran Chapel features live music and other entertainment Fri., 8–9 p.m. No cover, no dancing. January schedule TBA.

Conor O'Neill's

318 S. Main **665–2968**

Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. (7:30–10 p.m.), Thurs. & Sat. (9:30 p.m.–1:30 a.m.), & occasional other nights, and a DJ on Fri., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Every Thurs.: Jerry Sprague Band.** Roots-rock band led by veteran local singer-guitarist Sprague. **Every Fri.: DJ Big Daddie. Jan. 3: Joshua & Jeremy Sprague.** An eclectic mix of rock covers by Jerry Sprague's 2 sons. **Jan. 10: The Kreellers.** Detroit trio that plays traditional Irish music with rock energy and a punk edge. **Jan. 17: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Jan. 24: Kris K Trio.** Local trio led by singer-guitarist Kris Kurzawa that plays jazz, soul, and avant-funk covers and originals. **Jan. 31: The Terraplanes.** Local band led by singer-guitarist Jerry Mack that plays a mix of houserocking blues, uptown swing, soulful R&B, and roots rock. The band has a CD, *Well Tuned.* With guitarist Dave Fero, saxophonist James Morse, keyboardist Jim Merte, bassist Al Kalaf, and drummer Mike Adams.

Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

114 S. Main **665–9468**

This tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music occasional Fri. & Sat., 8:30–10:30 p.m. **Jan. 2: Nicholas Painter.** Local pop-folk singer-songwriter. **Jan. 3: Jen Sygit.** Young Michigan singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her bluesy lyrics, down-home music, and sultry vocals. **Jan. 9: Alex Greiner.** Local avant-folk singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who tonight celebrates the release of his new EP *Rags.* Opening acts are **Jeremy Chouinard,** an Ypsilanti experimental folk singer-songwriter, and **Jim Cherewick,** a local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 10:** TBA. **Jan. 16: Marco and Asim.** Folk-rock and blues by the local duo of singer-guitarist Marco Bruschtein and bassist Asim Khan. **Jan. 17: Synchronicity.** An eclectic mix of musical styles by the local husband-and-wife duo of vocalist Shekinah Errington and guitarist Gary Logan. **Jan. 23: Laurel Premo.** U-M student singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist whose songs draw on Celtic, Appalachian, Cajun, Scandinavian, and bluegrass influences. **Jan. 24: Bill Bynum & Co.** Downriver singer-songwriter and guitarist whose bluegrass-based songs also draw on old-time, early country, gospel, and contemporary folk music.

Mr. Largebeat plays at Arbor Brewing Company Jan. 3.

His band includes fiddler Mary Seelhorst, dobro player Dave Keeney, and bassist Chuck Anderson. **Jan. 30:** TBA. **Jan. 31: John Churchville & Meeta Baneerjee.** Local tabla player Churchville and sitarist Baneerjee are joined by other musicians for performances of North Indian classical music.

Creekside Grill and Bar

5827 Jackson Rd. **827–2737**

The intimate basement bar area of this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 25: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. 6:30–9 p.m.

Dreamland Theater

26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti **657–2337**

This downtown Ypsilanti theater, newly relocated from Depot Town, features live music Thurs. & occasional other nights, 9–11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Jan. 3: Burning Cacti.** Experimental psychedelic pop band from Canton. With 5 or 6 other bands TBA. 6–11 p.m. **Jan. 10: "Bare Wire Technologies Showcase."** An evening of experimental music by artists on this label, including **Arts vs. Entertainment Ensemble, Outlet,** and **Ethan Disbrow.** Each musical act is accompanied by a visual artist. **Jan. 16: "Not It Productions."** With 4 local acoustic bands TBA.

Elbow Room

6 S. Washington, Ypsilanti **483–6374**

This Ypsilanti tavern features live music and/or DJs Mon.–Thurs., 9 p.m.–1 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, occasional Sun., 8 p.m.–midnight. No cover ($5 suggested donation), dancing. **Every Thurs.: "Mofo Karaoke."** With "the standard karaoke playlist crap plus 2,500+ obscure and awesome songs." **Jan. 2: Beau Thai & the Ambassadors.** Motown cover band. Opening acts are **Electric Fire Babies,** a Detroit experimental New Wave band, and **The Questions,** an experimental postpunk rock band from Detroit. **Jan. 3: The Universal Temple of Divine Power.** Detroit blues-rock quartet. Opening acts are **Dirt Road Logic,** a 1970s-style rock 'n' roll band fronted by singer-guitarist Eric Kelly, and **Duende,** a Detroit psychedelic Americana band. **Jan. 4: Old Man Underground.** DJ duo that plays an incendiary mix of garage, punk, hip-hop, indie, metal, glam and rock 'n' roll. **Jan. 6: "Tiki Tuesday."** The Elbow Room Tiki Tuesday band plays surf music and various exotica. Also, performance by the belly dancer **Aurora** and magician **Scarboni. Jan. 7: Sam Corbin.** Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences range from Leonard Cohen to Bob Dylan. Opening acts are **Jen Sygit** (see Crazy Wisdom) and **The Woes,** an experimental blues-based Americana ensemble from New York City. **Jan. 9: Vic Ruggiero.** The singer-keyboardist of the popular New York City postpunk ska band the Slackers is backed by an ad hoc band of local musicians. Opening acts are **Mike Boyd,** a local country-folk singer-songwriter, and another band TBA. **Jan. 10: Those Transatlantics.** Mount Pleasant pop-rock quartet fronted by vocalist Annie Palmer. Opening acts are **Looking for Mammoths,** an Ypsilanti funk-rock trio, and **Long Whisker,** an Ypsilanti acoustic alternative pop-rock trio. **Jan. 13: "Direct Hits Mod Club."** DJ collective that plays vintage British pop and soul. **Jan. 14: Murder Mystery.** Indie rock trio from Madison Heights. Opening acts are **Err...,** an Ypsilanti noise-rock duo, and **Las Drogas,** an Ypsilanti band that plays loud, raucous, melodic, bluesy, surf-guitar rockabilly. **Jan. 16: Scott Morgan's Powertrane.** Hard-edged blues and 60s-style Detroit rock 'n' roll by this quartet led by veteran singer-songwriter Morgan, a fixture on the local rock scene since his days with the legendary Rationals in the 60s. Morgan is also one of the best blues singers in town, with a sharp-edged, cannily rhythmic vocal attack that's both mean and soulful. Opening acts are **Gorevette,** a Detroit garage pop quartet fronted by Nikki Corvette and Amy Gore of the Gore Gore Girls, and **Kyoto Cut Out,** a local punk band. **Jan. 17: Sik Sik Nation.** Local psychedelic-blues garage trio. Opening acts are **Millions of Brazilians,** a Taylor postpunk pop-rock trio, and **The Plastic Hearts,** a Cleveland Heights Americana rock sextet. **Jan. 20: "The Cycle."** DJs Blakguts and Joe Vargas spin funk, soul, and indie dance records. **Jan. 21: Simien the Whale.** Grand Rapids alternative rock quartet. Opening acts TBA. **Jan. 23: Boywife.** Punk-rock band from Ypsilanti whose music draws on Chinese pop, Japanese classical music, and Mexican regional music. Opening acts are **Mazinga,** a veteran Ypsilanti band that plays rough, raw, Detroit-style rock 'n' roll, and **Fashion,** a Detroit experimental New Wave band. **Jan. 24: Minor Planets.** Local neo–new wave band. Opening acts are **My Biography,** a local pop-punk band, and another band TBA. **Jan. 27: "Club Fit."** Indie rock dance party with DJs Ayron Michael Nelson and Louis P. **Jan. 28: Jura.** Experimental ambient-shoegazer trio from Dearborn. Opening acts are **Acid Wash,** an Ypsilanti alternative rock quintet, and **Storm Ross,** a local experimental electronica band. **Jan. 30: Bloodlined Calligraphy.** Ypsilanti hardcore thrash band. Opening acts are the Kalamazoo metal-hardcore band **Reinventing Yesterday,** the Ypsilanti thrash-metal quintet **A Perfect Failure,** and Ypsilanti experimental hardcore quartet **The Sleep of Reason. Jan. 31: Ben Daniels Band.** Rootsy acoustic folk-rock trio from Chelsea led by singer-songwriter and guitarist Daniels. Opening acts TBA.

The Firefly Club

637 S. Main **665–9090**

Jazz and blues club, named Best Metro Detroit Jazz Club by the *Detroit Free Press,* that recently moved to a new location next to South Main Market. Live jazz Mon., 8 p.m.–midnight; occasional Tues., 8–10 p.m.; occasional Wed., times TBA; Thurs., 8–11 p.m.; Fri. & Sat., 9 p.m.–1 a.m.; and Sun., 8:30 p.m.–12:30 a.m. Also, happy-hour music Thurs., 4–7 p.m., and Fri. & Sun., 5–8 p.m. Sun. jazz brunch, 10 a.m.–2 p.m. Cover (unless otherwise noted), dancing. **Every Fri.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Easy Street Swingtet.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Paul Klinger. **Every Sun.** (5–8 p.m.)**: Phil Ogilvie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrange-

ments by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. The rest of the lineup includes 3 saxophonists/clarinetists, 2 trumpeters, a trombonist, a guitarist/banjo player, and a drummer. **Every Sun.: "Elevation."** Funk and hip-hop by DJ Graffiti and other DJs TBA. Also, an open mike session. **Every Mon.: Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist (and Firefly Club owner) Susan Chastain. Followed at 11 p.m. by a **jazz jam session. Every Thurs.** (except Jan. 1)**: Los Gatos.** Mambos and cha-chas by this local Latin jazz band that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. Led by drummer Pete Siers, the group also includes vibes player Cary Kocher, bassist Kurt Krahnke, pianist Brian DiBlassio, and percussionist Jonathan Ovalle. Preceded at 7 p.m. by Latin dance lessons ($5 includes cover for the band). 8–11 p.m. **Jan. 10: Harper.** Blues-rock band led by Peter Harper, a blues singer-songwriter from Australia, recently transplanted to Grass Lake, who plays blues harp and didgeridoo. The band has an acclaimed CD on the Blind Pig label, *Down to the Rhythm*. **Jan. 13: Lonesome County.** Hard-driving traditional bluegrass by this Michigan quintet, led by singer-guitarist Chad Jeremy, that won the 2006 Renfro Valley Bluegrass Talent Contest. With mandolinist Kevin Frank, banjoist Lee Kaufmann, fiddler Marty Somberg, and bassist Paul Shapiro. 7:30 p.m. Remainder of January weekend schedule TBA.

Goodnite Gracie

301 W. Huron **752–5740**

Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live music Fri. & Sat., 9:30 p.m.–1 a.m. Also, karaoke on Tues. Cover Thurs.–Sat. only, no dancing. **Every Wed. & Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Jan. 2: Lester Blues.** Local guitar-based blues band. **Jan. 3: Michael May & the Messarounds.** See Conor O'Neill's. **Jan. 9** (5–8 p.m.)**: "5:01 Jazz Series."** With **Organissimo,** a Lansing jazz trio led by B-3 organist Jim Alfredson. **Jan. 9: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** See above. **Jan. 10: Nick Strange Band.** Popular local rock, blues, & reggae dance band led by singer-guitarist Strange and featuring vocalist Jessica Oberholtzer. **Jan. 16: Dave Sharp Quartet.** Straight-ahead jazz by this local quartet led by bassist Sharp. **Jan. 17: Lester Blues.** See above. **Jan. 23: Laith Al-Saadi Band.** See above. **Jan. 24: Nick Strange Band.** See above. **Jan. 30: Grievous Angel.** Detroit-area country-rock band that covers everyone from Hank Williams to the Grateful Dead and Metallica. **Jan. 31: Lester Blues.** See above.

Guy Hollerin's

3600 Plymouth Rd. **769–9800**

The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Fri. & Sat., 8 p.m.–midnight. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 2:** Closed. **Jan. 3: Bugs Beddow Band.** Versatile horn-driven R&B, boogie-rock, blues, and jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit trombonist Beddow. **Jan. 9: Drivin' Sideways.** See Club Above. **Jan. 10: The Howling Diablos.** Wild-humored blues and rock 'n' roll band by this veteran Detroit quintet led by vocalist Martin "Tino" Gross. **Jan. 16: Bluescasters.** Veteran local blues and blues-rock quartet. **Jan. 17: The Saints.** Detroit pop-rock band that specializes in classic Motown. **Jan. 23: Doug Deming & the Jewel Tones.** Traditional postwar blues, jump blues, and barroom swing by this acclaimed Detroit quartet led by singer-guitarist Deming. **Jan. 24: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. The band has released 3 acclaimed CDs and is working on an all-instrumental CD that includes "Swing Minor 65," Bedard's surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune. **Jan. 30: Count Bracey & the Pleasure Tones.** Detroit blues band. **Jan. 31: Jimmy McCarty & Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist McCarty.

The Habitat Ultralounge

3050 Jackson Rd. **665–3636**

The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.–Thurs., 8:45 p.m.–12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.–1:30 a.m. Also, solo pianists Tues.–Sun., 6–8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Every Mon.: "Monday Groove."** With DJ Mechial White. 7 p.m.–midnight. **Jan. 2 & 3: Joy Ride.** Detroit dance band. **Jan. 6–8: Dave Hamilton Band.** Pop dance band led by saxophonist Hamilton. **Jan. 9: 50 Amp Fuse.** 70s and 80s classic rock by this very popular Detroit band. **Jan. 10: Remedy.** Detroit dance band. **Jan. 13–15: Justine Blazer.** Acoustic duo led by this Detroit country-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 16 & 17: Ultraviolet.** Detroit band that plays 70s & 80s rock hits. **Jan. 20–22: Identical Strangers.** Classic rock by the Windsor duo of vocalist Danielle Samson and guitarist Scott Giles. **Jan. 23 & 24: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Jan. 27–29: Slice.** East Lansing dance band. **Jan. 30 & 31: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing.

The Halfass

Church St. entrance to East Quad **764–8558**

Informal student-dominated cafe, also known as the Halfway Inn. Occasional live music, 9 p.m.–1 a.m. Cover, dancing. **Jan. 17: Chris Bathgate.** Local singer-songwriter who writes heartfelt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. Opening acts TBA.

Live at PJ's

102 S. First St. **752–5740**

This jazz lounge features live music and DJs Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Karaoke on Mon. Cover, dancing.

Melange Subterranean Bistro

314 S. Main **222–0202**

The lounge in this downtown restaurant features live music Thurs., 10 p.m.–2 a.m. Also, DJs on Fri. & Sat. Dancing, no cover. **Every Thurs.: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul.

The Necto

516 E. Liberty **994–5436**

This popular dance club features local and national DJs 4 nights a week, Mon. & Thurs.–Sat., 9 p.m.–2 a.m. Cover (Thurs.–Sat. after 10 p.m. only), dancing.

Old Town

122 W. Liberty **662–9291**

This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8–10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Jan. 1: Chris Buhalis.** This local singer-songwriter performs his annual tribute to Hank Williams and Townes Van Zandt to mark the anniversary of their deaths. 6 p.m. until he's done. **Jan. 4: Pale Dave.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Jan. 11: Eric Kelly.** Local singer-songwriter who writes raw, Dylanesque folk-style songs. **Jan. 18: Bone Orchard Revival.** Local alt-country duo of Jeni Lee Richey and Adam Arscott. **Jan. 25: Rachael Davis.** Very talented young singer-songwriter and gifted velvet-voiced singer from Cadillac, Michigan, whose influences range from Ella Fitzgerald to Patty Griffin.

Oz's Music Environment

1920 Packard **662–8283**

This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music Tues., Thurs., & occasional other nights, 7:30–9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover, no dancing. **Jan. 6: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Jan. 13: "Anything Goes Open Stage & Song Circle."** All musicians invited. Hosted by Laura MacKimmie. **Jan. 20: "Originals Only Open Stage."** All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by Oz, aka Steve Osburn. Advance sign-up required. **Jan. 27: "AASC Blues Highway 101."** Mickey Richard and Sue Nordman host a mostly acoustic blues jam session. All musicians invited.

The Quarter Bistro

300 S. Maple **929–9200**

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Rick's American Cafe

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Classifieds

Employment

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

For Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

Entertainment

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Miscellaneous

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I SPY CONTEST
Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 80? If you can, you could win a copy of Jonathan Marwil's *A History of Ann Arbor.* One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, January 12. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769–3375; email: backpage@aaobserver.com (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

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Business Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

Health

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

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Neighbors helping neighbors in northwest Ann Arbor

DEXMIL is the Dexter-Miller Community, a nonprofit cooperative in northwest Ann Arbor. Members exchange services and lend each other equipment. They help each other with minor repairs, vacation care for plants or pets, car pool, babysit, and even find bridge and Scrabble players. Scrip is used to help balance obligations.

Organized in 2008, total membership will be limited to 300 households. Currently we are seeking new members. For more information, see our website at www.dexmil.com.

Photography

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

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Volunteers Wanted

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

Real Estate

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

For Sale by Owner

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

Homes for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

Condos for Sale

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

NEW ANN ARBOR CONDOMINIUMS
For Sale at Balmoral Park, Main Street near Eisenhower. FHA financing. Custom features including granite, stainless appliances, attached garage, basement. Priced from $239,900. Only 4 units left. Hurry! Contact R. Komer, (248) 350–9090 or (734) 913–8661.

For Rent

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

Real Estate Services

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 9.

Personals

Personals Key

A=Asian
B=Black
C=Christian
D=Divorced
F=Female
G=Gay
H=Hispanic
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate
ISO=In Search Of
J=Jewish
✍=Letters
LTR=Long Term Relationship
M=Male
ND=Nondrinker
NS=Nonsmoker
☎=Phone Calls
P=Professional
S=Single
W=White

Women Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 12.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Midlife goddess, 47, tall-ish, fit, loves life. Let's enjoy Ann Arbor and beyond . . . meet for coffee, tea, tapas, wine? 5784✍

Looking in A2. Attractive, educated, 70-year-old **SF,** seeking companionship and more. 5783✍

Slim, healthy, thoughtful, liberal, doc-level educated A2 woman ISO a good man/partner, early 50s, NS. 5781✍

Educated, foreign-born American, **SWF,** NS, ND, ISO educated, healthy, honest gentleman in early 70s. 5668✍

Ready for romance? **SWPF** seeks bright, caring SWPM for LTR. Must love animals. Serious replies only. 5774✍

SWF, educated, professional, ISO SWPM, 52–65. NS, no tattoo. LTR and possible marriage. 5727✍

Slim **PBF,** 50s and fit. Likes movies, dance. No dependents. ISO SPM, 50 to 60, NS, fit. LTR. 5693✍

Men Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 12.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

SWM, 58, gray teddy bear, seeks a honey for chess, jazz, BBQs, and more. 5775✍

SM, 75, NS, seeking female, 65–75, for friendship and more. 5765✍

A carrier pigeon is flying . . . a middle-aged multilingual Asian man is appearing . . . 5759✍

Singles player, 58, game for a good-humored doubles partner for a set of tennis or possible match. 5744✍

Tennis player, film lover, **SWPM,** 5'11", fit, 50. ISO artistic, possibly athletic SWF for LTR. 5715✍

DWM, 70 years young, 195 lbs., 5'11", attractive, home-centered. Enjoys music, movies, travel. ISO slender A, H, or WF for LTR. 5689✍

Friendships

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 12.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Women Seeking Women

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 12.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

Men Seeking Men

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 12.

PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE
$3 per letter
See Instruction Box.

General Personals

The **Classifieds deadline** for the February issue is January 12.

ANN ARBOR SKI CLUB
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Letter responses are forwarded for $3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Ann Arbor Observer; include a check for $3 per response made payable to:
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- Place your personals ad through www.arborlist.com, follow the directions to place your ad in print in the Observer, receive the first 3 lines of your personals ad for FREE.

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- Email: classifieds@arborweb.com or Fax: (734) 769-3375
- Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at:

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Above: Custom built Lake Forest home on a gorgeous, private lot backing to the woods of one of Ann Arbor's most desirable subdivisions. Features include five bedrooms, four and a half baths, a two-story great room, oversize kitchen, first floor master suite, and a finished basement. $499,900. Call Matt, 476-7100.

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NW ANN ARBOR – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walk-out basement. $1,295,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DIXBORO FARMS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 4-bath new construction on a gorgeous 2-acre estate lot in this popular NE Ann Arbor neighborhood. Quality features everywhere including all brick exterior, cherry kitchen with granite counters, extensive custom molding and trim, luxury first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR Truly spectacular 5-bedroom, 5 ½-bath custom-built home resting on an a stately 2.2 acre parcel just west of town. This home features every conceivable amenity including dream kitchen with maple cabinets and professional grade appliances, two-story family room, cherry trim and floors, luxury master suite, smart house technology, Gunite pool, 5-car garage space, and more. $899,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GLENNBOROUGH – This stately, custom-built 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath home rests on one of the finest lots in the neighborhood. Home has incredible presence set far back from the street with extensive landscaping, flowing stream, and pond frontage. Interior features wonderful contemporary flair with two-story great room, cherry kitchen with granite counters, first-floor master suite with sitting room, and finished walk-out basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BARTON HILLS AREA – New construction just minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and U of M. This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home on a peaceful 1.5 acre parcel features wonderful oversized rooms, ample hardwood floors, custom kitchen with professional grade appliances, luxury master suite. $519,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING - LAKE FOREST - Custom built 5-bedrooms, 4 ½-bath home on a gorgeous lot backing to woods in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Great lot features extensive landscaping, large back yard, and extreme privacy. The interior is just perfect highlighted by the two story great room, oversized kitchen, first floor master suite, and finished basement. Great Home! $499,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE Custom built 4-bedroom, 2½-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the area's most desired subs. Incredible lot borders trees and a stream with oversized patio and extensive landscaping. Gorgeous interior features large great room with vaulted ceiling, gourmet kitchen, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished basement. $475,000. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STRAWBERRY LAKE – This 5-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on one of the finest lake front settings you will find anywhere. Enjoy gorgeous bluff top views from the large deck and year-round sun room of one of the area's best all-sports lakes. Home features substantial updates including cherry kitchen with Corian counters, all new baths with granite, fresh paint, and finished walkout basement. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BRASS CREEK – This custom-built home rests on one of the most beautiful sites you will find. Gorgeous acre lot with extensive landscaping, treed backyard, deck, and patio. Interior is sharp with two-story great room, den, open kitchen with granite island, first-floor master suite, and finished walk-out basement. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Are you looking for a GORGEOUS wooded setting just minutes to Ann Arbor and I-94? This is it!! Enjoy the complete seclusion and privacy of this 2.1 acre wooded setting. The 3-bedroom, 2-bath home features great room with vaulted ceiling, spacious oak kitchen, study loft, and private master suite. $399,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LAUREL GARDENS – Highly desired 2-bedroom, 2 ½-bath condo in NE Ann Arbor's most desired condo complex. Great location and setting deep within the neighborhood backing to trees and natural area. Interior features formal living and dining, flex use den/tv room, and master suite with two walk-ins and luxury bath. $349,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 3-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Incredible backyard view with fully developed pond including large deck, extensive patios, and gorgeous landscaping. The interior is sharp including great room with vaulted ceiling and two-story fireplace, spacious kitchen with Corian counters, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. $329,900 **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE – This 3-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo features one of the best golf course views you'll find. Incredible tee-to-green view of the #8 hole at Stonebridge. The interior of this unit has been completely redone. Features include maple kitchen cabinets with granite counter tops, Brazilian cherry floors, and stainless steel appliances, new master bath, and partially finished basement. $259,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – Super sharp 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on 10 gorgeous acres just minutes to I-94. This is not your typical "cornfield" lot. Enjoy wonderful privacy and views of nature on this mostly wooded site. Home features spacious living room, eat-in kitchen, formal dining, and nice master suite. $259,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

STONEBRIDGE Super sharp 3-bedroom, 3-bath condo in Stonebridge overlooking the #8 fairway. This unit is gorgeous featuring open living room with 10-ft. ceiling, sun porch overlooking the course, master suite with vaulted ceilings, and finished basement with view out windows. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath former builder's model home in Sandhill Estates is loaded with quality upgrades. Great design featuring two-story foyer, open great room, large kitchen with island, first-floor master suite with sitting area, and three-car garage. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

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Matt Dejanovich

Matt Dejanovich has been a resident and realtor in Ann Arbor and its surrounding communities for over 20 years. In that time he has become one of the top producing agents at Real Estate One, the largest real estate brokerage in the state. Matt prides himself on providing personal, direct service to each and every one of his customers.

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COLLEGE HEIGHTS – Stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home built in 2006 walking distance to UM Central Campus and UM hospitals. Gorgeous home featuring custom kitchen with upgraded stainless steel appliances and granite, family room with built-ins, luxury master suite, and finished basement. $799,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This gracious 5-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built colonial rests on a peaceful 2.2 acre setting just minutes from town. Incredible features include two-story foyer and family room, custom kitchen with granite counter tops, oversized master suite with dream closet, and finished basement. You will love it! $749,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

DEXTER – Your own private estate backing to Peach Mountain. This incredible property is loaded with many unique and top quality amenities. Five-bedr oom, 3½-bath custom-built home features soaring ceilings, upgraded materials, and finished walkout basement. Second detached 3-car garage with apartment above is perfect for cars, boat, hobbies, etc. $599,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SALINE – Incredible custom-built home on a gorgeous 10-acre estate parcel just minutes from town. The land is absolutely beautiful with ample trees, river frontage, and upgraded out building. Interior features include two-story great room, custom kitchen with granite counters and professional grade appliances, all hardwood floors, and luxury master suite. $569,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NEW LISTING – JACKSON – incredible 4-bedroom, 4-bath custom-built home in the Sanctuary at Brills Lake, one of Jackson's most desired subs. This 2004 Parade of Homes entry is loaded with custom features and amenities including 2-story family room with wall of windows, kitchen with cherry cabinets and granite counters, den, luxury master suite, and gorgeous wooded lot. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

PINCKNEY – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home with 90 ft. of frontage on Highland Lake. This home is just paradise with panoramic views of lake and 11,000 acres of state owned land. The interior is loaded featuring oversized great room, maple kitchen with granite, and dream master suite. $469,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – This 4-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built home rests in your own private wooded oasis. Incredible home inside and out including 8-car garage space in two outbuildings, one with finished office space. The interior of this home has been completely renovated with all first class amenities. Maple kitchen with granite counter tops, new baths, cherry floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, and luxury master suite. $449,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

LOHR LAKE VILLAGE – Incredible 4-bedroom, 2-full and 2-half bath home overlooking the ponds and open space in one of Saline School's most desired subs. The lot is gorgeous with extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. Completely updated interior featuring extensive hardwood floor, granite on all counters, large kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. $429,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

CENTENNIAL FARMS – This 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial is just perfect. Hard to find home in one of Saline School's most desired subs. Great lot located deep in the neighborhood is walking distance to Harvest Elementary and Saline High School. Gorgeous interior features maple kitchen with oak hardwood floor, open family room, first-floor den, luxurious master suite, and large bedrooms. $329,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD – This perfectly maintained and upgraded 4-bedroom, 2 ½-bath colonial in one of Saline's most desired subs has all the features you've been hoping for. Gorgeous lot backing to woods includes extensive landscaping, large deck, and patio. The interior is perfect featuring open kitchen with granite, large family room, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement. $284,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MANCHESTER – This custom-built 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on almost 11 pastoral acres is close to perfect. Custom-built by Don Gaddes, this home was built with extreme attention to energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Wonderful home with large great room, maple kitchen, nice master suite, and mostly finished basement with view out windows. $275,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

SILO RIDGE - Perfect 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial on a quiet one acre cul-de-sac lot. Wonderful setting with spacious backyard, extensive landscaping, and large deck. Interior features open family room, first-floor den, nice kitchen, and spacious master suite. $269,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – This is not your typical Ann Arbor ranch. Backing to Pioneer woods, this home has been completely remodeled and expanded. Perfect for a single person or a couple, this home features a huge master suite overlooking the woods with upgraded bath, the backyard is all deck with sitting areas and complete privacy, finished basement, and more. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

OLD WEST SIDE – Walk to downtown Ann Arbor from this classic Old West Side 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home. Washtenaw Diary and Jefferson Market are just blocks away as well. Great home at a great price featuring extensive hardwood floors, large living room, spacious formal dining room, updated kitchen, and good sized bedrooms. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

BURNS PARK – Super charming 3-bedroom, 1-bath two-story home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. Great price for this move-in condition home on a quiet tree lined street. Interior features extensive hardwood floors, custom décor, large living room with fireplace, and formal dining. Spacious backyard. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Hard to find 2-bedroom, 2-bath handyman special on a wooded 1.5 acre lot on Huron River Dr. Great opportunity for fix up, major addition, or tear down of this ranch style home on Ann Arbor's west side. Great location just minutes to downtown and U of M. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

FORD LAKE FRONTAGE - Enjoy panoramic bluff top views of Ford Lake from this remodeled and expanded 3-bedroom colonial. Lake front living at its finest with multiple decks and patios and a gorgeous all-sports lake. Home features added family room with vaulted ceiling and hardwood floor, central kitchen, spacious master bedroom, and finished basement. $249,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

YPSILANTI TOWNSHIP – Your own country oasis awaits you at this move-in condition 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home. Enjoy the gorgeous park-like setting just minutes from everything. This home is perfect and features living room with vaulted ceiling, family room with fireplace, and nice master suite. Gorgeous!! $229,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

MAPLEWOOD FS – This super sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial has been completely updated over the past three years. Perfect move-in condition home features large living room, spacious kitchen, great lot with deck, nice master suite, and finished basement. You will love it. $209,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

GRASS LAKE – Wonderful 3-bedroom, 2-bath ranch on pastoral 6.8 acre parcel just minutes to I-94. Perfect setting with great privacy, large deck, and pole barn. Interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, formal dining room, large master suite with walk-in closet, and large basement. $209,999. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

WILDWOOD COMMONS - This perfect, move-in condition 2-bedroom, 2-bath detached condo rests well within the community. You will love the spacious, open floor plan and very tasteful décor. Great room with vaulted ceiling and fireplace, open kitchen with bar seating, large master suite, and guest room/den. $199,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

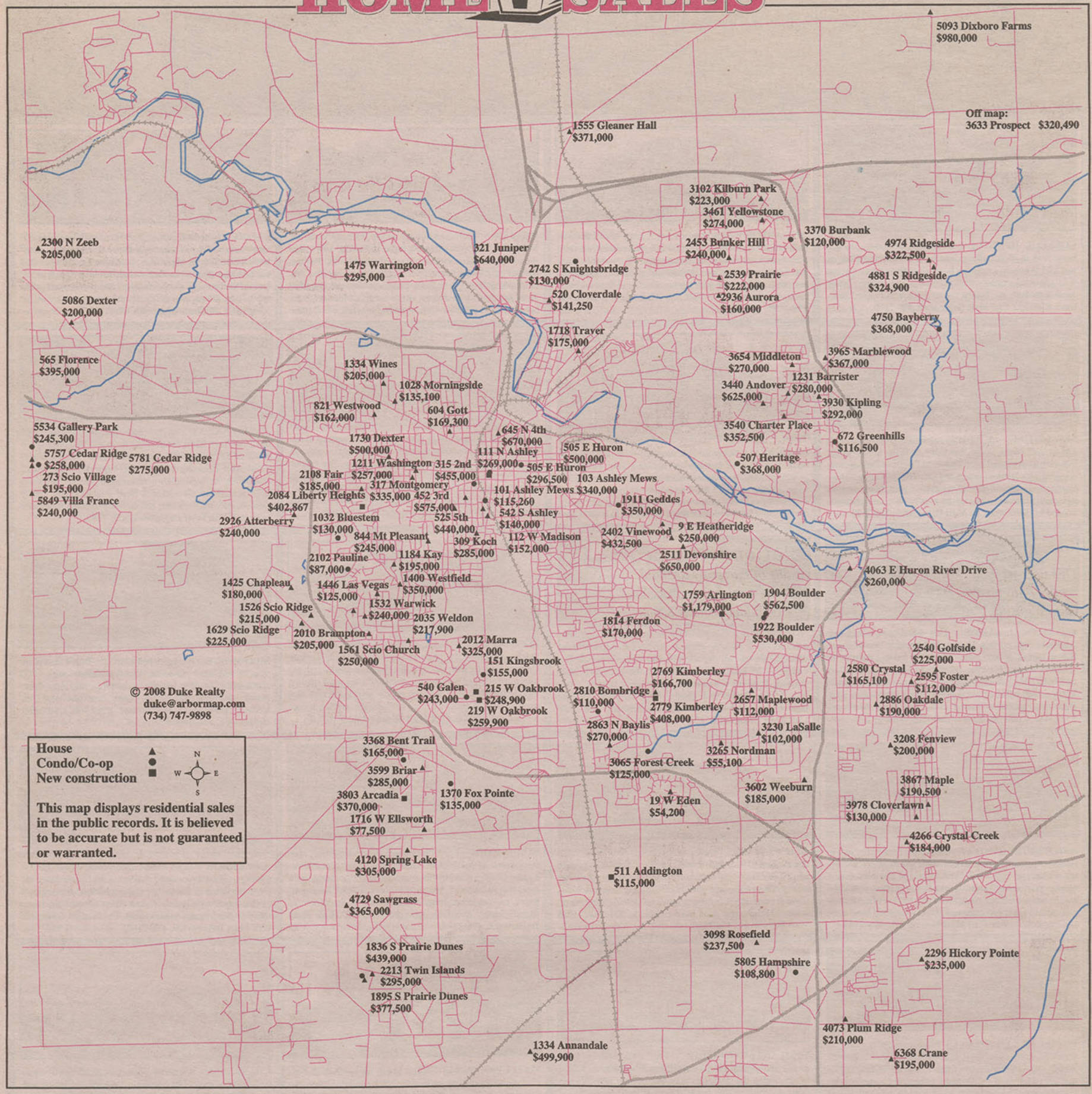
NEW LISTING – HAISLEY ELEMENTARY – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath cape on a very low traffic, quiet street. Walking distance to schools, parks, and downtown. This home is in great shape with current décor, hardwood floors, and cove ceilings. Spacious master suite with ample closets, kitchen with ceramic tile floor, and large back yard. $189,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

ANN ARBOR – Great 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch home walking distance to UM hospital, lower town, and downtown Ann Arbor. This home is in perfect move-in condition and features large backyard, one car garage, and neutral décor throughout. $169,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

EBERWHITE –Rock solid 3-bedroom, 1-bath brick ranch on one of the most desired streets in town. Nicely remodeled home with newer maple kitchen, windows, and roof. Home features large living room, open floor plan, and full basement. $159,900. **Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.**

NOVEMBER 2008

HOME SALES



Foreclosures and Pfizer's departure continue to hammer home prices. The median price of single-family homes sold in the Ann Arbor school district through November was $235,000, down 10 percent from 2007's $260,000. It's the second year in a row the median has dropped 10 percent.

The good news is that both trends are tapering off. Public records put the total value of foreclosed homes in the school district at under $31 million through November—bad, but not as bad as the $40 million estimate for all of 2007's wreckage. There's no tally of Pfizer-related relocations, and neither the company nor the broker of its relo firm, Prudential Relocation, Inc., will discuss them. But last year Prudential Relocation handled seventy-seven single-family homes and condominiums in the city of Ann Arbor—a figure that dropped to just twenty-one in the first eleven months of 2008. Though not all of Prudential's relo business is attributable to Pfizer, the bulk of it clearly was—for a time.

The average price on a Prudential relo transaction in the city fell from $324,000 in 2006 to $285,000 in 2007 and to $211,000 in 2008. But we found twenty-seven cases where the company appears to have absorbed part of the loss: two sales of the same property in quick succession with the original owner collecting, on average, $30,000 more than the current market price. At first, 2936 Renfrew looked like the biggest relo winner: its deed showed it selling twice this past July—first for $479,000 and then for just $235,000 (Calls & Letters, November). But the $479,000 figure turned out to be a "scrivener's error"—the actual price was a much more plausible $239,500.

If Pfizer and foreclosure sales were down, why did prices drop so steeply? Most likely because there were fewer unforced sales to offset them. Compared to the first ten months of 2007, the total number of single-family homes sold in the city was off 24 percent.

—Kevin Duke

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Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

Good-bye Pfizer, hello Sushi

The Kims' new venture

The restaurant business attracts plenty of passionate, food-obsessed dreamers who quickly discover they're in over their heads. Maybe the industry needs more computer scientists.

Here's how **Umi Sushi,** a Japanese-Korean restaurant scheduled to open shortly before Christmas, came about. Mike Kim, who is from Korea, worked at Pfizer as a computer scientist for eleven years. When Pfizer closed, he says, "my family wanted to stay in Ann Arbor." But as he looked at his options, he decided the city could more easily absorb another restaurant than another computer scientist.

To learn the trade, he went to work for a year at Biwako, a Korean-Japanese restaurant in Saline. Then he leased some space in a familiar part of town—Plymouth Green Crossings, practically across the street from Pfizer.

Umi, he says, is a Japanese word that means "blue ocean." When it came time to design the restaurant, his wife, Jeong-ok, "chose the paint colors and designed the bathrooms. We wanted it to be warm and welcoming"—hence the light gold walls, clean-lined wooden sushi bar, and yellow and brown upholstered booths.

When we stopped by in early December, Kim was hiring waiters and putting the finishing touches on the menu, which will include Korean dishes, sushi, and cooked Japanese specialties such as teriyaki. The price range will be $7–$10 for lunch and $8–$16 for dinner.

Kim himself will be working in the kitchen. "But we have a main chef," he adds, "Seonghee Ryu. He's more experienced than me. He worked at Sushi.come the last six years."

Umi Sushi, 3393B Plymouth Road (Plymouth Green Crossings), 222–0826. Mon.–Thurs. 11 a.m.–9:30 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m. Closed Sun.

J. ADRIAN WYLIE

When Pfizer closed, computer scientist Mike Kim decided the city could more easily absorb another restaurant than another computer scientist. He and his wife, Jeong-ok, are opening Umi Sushi in Plymouth Green Crossings—practically right across the street from where Pfizer used to be.

The Melting Pot

Lovers' lane with cheese

For anyone who remembers the last fondue craze, the **Melting Pot** on Main Street gives off a surprisingly elegant vibe. Discard those images of thatched Alpine quaintness and 1970s retro kitsch. Instead, you're met with glimmering bronze floor tiles and dark granite tables. Smelly cans of Sterno? *Mais non!* Instead there's a magnetic convection heater built into each table to cook your food—cool to the touch until it connects with ferrous metal and zaps it with 1,000 Btus.

The Melting Pot has 160 seats, but you'd never know it—it's crisscrossed by so many nooks and crannies that each table feels intimate and unique. And if those aren't private enough for you, specifically request a table on "lovers' lane"—a particularly secluded strip of small booths.

Owners Mark and Lisa Shaw fell in love thirteen years ago at a Melting Pot in Rockville, Maryland. He was a Silicon Valley lawyer and she was in finance, but about three years ago they decided to move back to Michigan to be closer to his parents, who live near Ann Arbor. They opened a Melting Pot in Grand Rapids and put in a bid for an Ann Arbor franchise.

The much-delayed debut of the Ann Arbor Melting Pot isn't a subject the Shaws like to discuss. They reluctantly explain that the city building department seized on a particularly hard-line reading of an ambiguous section of the International Mechanical Code to insist that each table, as a functioning cooktop, should have its own ventilation hood. Rather than duking it out in a legal arena, the Shaws chose to wait for a change in the code. That came through in September and allowed them to open.

The Melting Pot kitchen does no cooking other than a little prewarming, to jump-start your tabletop experience. In addition to cheese fondue and chocolate dessert fondue, the menu features salads and fondues of seasoned broths for cooking meat and fish. Any can be ordered à la carte, but Mark Shaw says most guests opt to try them all in a whopping four-course parade called the Big Night Out. It typically takes about three hours and costs about $40 per person.

The Melting Pot, 309 South Main, 622–0055. Mon.–Thurs. 4–10 p.m., Fri. 4–11 p.m., Sat. noon–11 p.m., Sun. noon–10 p.m. meltingpot.com

Briefly Noted

"It's kind of like a miniature Bed Bath & Beyond," manager Debra Cook says of the **Village Attic,** the new second-story annex of the Village Apothecary on South University. Garry Turner owns the building as well as the pharmacy, and last year he decided that rather than let the upstairs space lie fallow, he'd try to stock a few things the surrounding undergraduate population might need. He entrusted the task of figuring out just what that might be to Ashley Hayes, twenty, an actual undergraduate—"who happens to be my daughter," confides manager Cook. "He figured she would know more than either one of us." Hayes chose and ordered the initial inventory, and her mom points out the stylish high quality (relatively speaking) of the home goods: dishes, clocks, shower-curtain rods, canvas bins, beanbag chairs, fans, heaters, sheet sets—all more IKEA than Wal-Mart. There's also a fine selection of Ray-Ban and DKNY sunglasses.

Village Attic, 1112 South University, no phone of its own (the Village Apothecary phone is 663–5533). Mon.–Fri. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.–6 p.m. Closed Sun.

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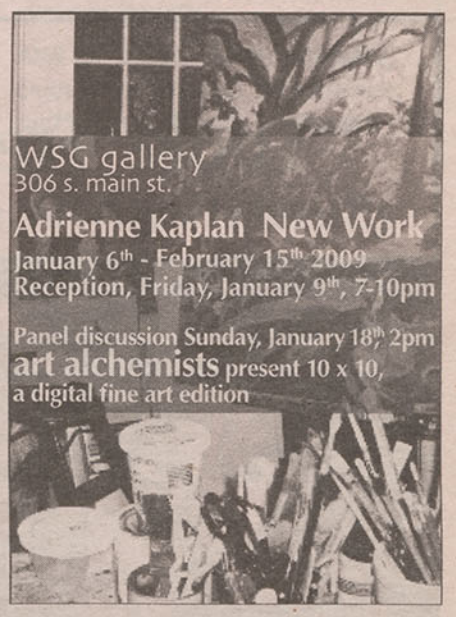
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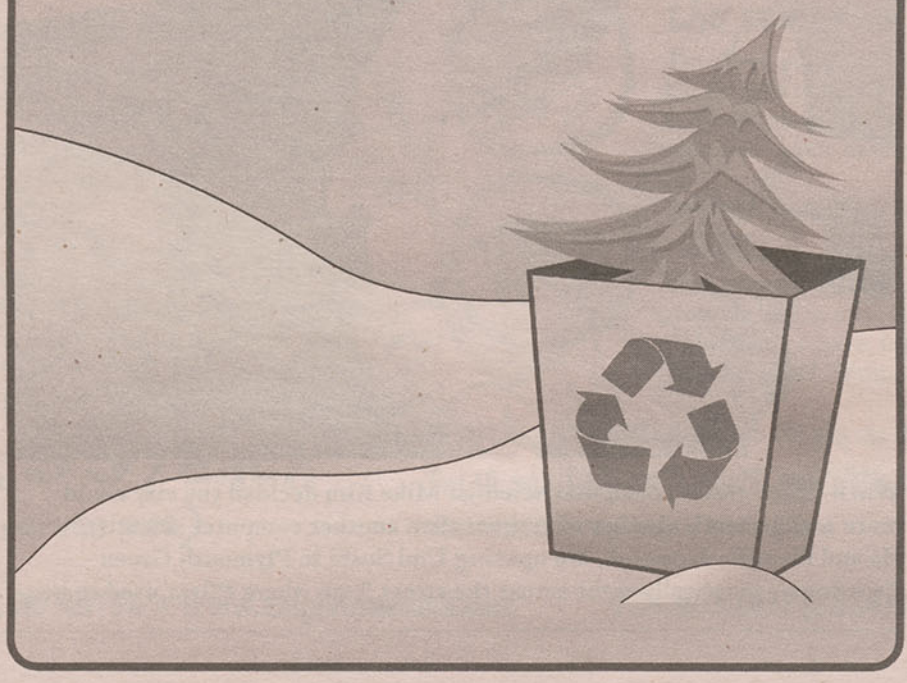

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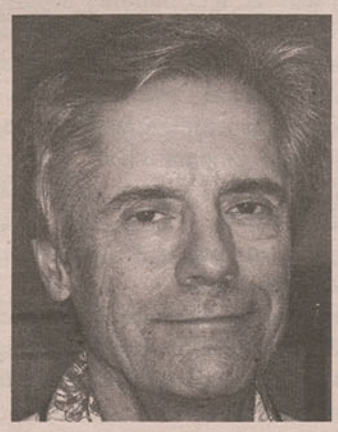

Read Peter's blog at www.QuestForSelf.com

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Marketplace Changes *continued*

Lisa Pearce's dog, Pepper, sleeps on a bed made of pop bottles, and it's a lot more comfortable than it sounds. The bottles have been recycled into a soft, fluffy fiberfill called IntelliLoft that cushions dog beds available at **Green Pawz,** a new ecofriendly pet supply store in Maple Village. "Healthy pets, healthy planet—that's kind of our motto," says Pearce, who co-owns the store with John Scherer.

"Everything in the store, if we can do it, will be recycled," promises Scherer. That includes everything from dog beds and chew toys to leashes and collars. They also stock all-natural pet food for dogs, cats, and other small pets.

Scherer, forty-five, an Ann Arbor native, has owned his own sheet metal distribution company for two decades. Pearce, forty-two, spent the last eighteen years managing the Prickly Pear restaurant on Main Street. When a mutual friend introduced them two years ago, both were ready to do something different. Their decision to open Green Pawz was galvanized by last year's national pet food scare, in which dozens of animals died after eating tainted food.

"We didn't want to be a small Pet Supplies Plus," Pearce says. "We wanted people to be able to walk in and know that everything is chemical free, and no preservatives, no by-products, and feel good about buying." Their environmentally friendly approach extends to the interior of the store itself. "All our shelving is reclaimed lumber," she says, "and we did a water-based dye on the floor."

Green Pawz was scheduled to open in late December near Plum Market, and Scherer says proximity to the food store was the main reason he and Pearce decided to locate there in Maple Village. "Our market would be Plum Market's market," says Scherer. "We're going to basically mirror them as far as what we're doing—everything ecofriendly, but . . . catering to dogs and cats and pets." And he points out that with the new Karnik Pet Lodge right behind the center, "dogs will be coming in and out of Maple Village all the time."

Green Pawz, 211 North Maple (Maple Village), 222–9622. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m.

❧❧❧

Peter Shipman was a couple of years ahead of the fresh-Mex curve when he opened his first **Qdoba Mexican Grill** on South Main in 2003. Today, Ann Arbor is awash in salsa as chains like Chipotle and Moe's Southwest battle it out for a share of the fresh-Mex market, but Shipman's still at the front of the pack—in December he planned to open his third Qdoba franchise, on Plymouth Road next to Panera Bread, before the end of the year.

Qdoba specializes in burritos assembled to order. Customers choose from a dozen different models, including chicken poblano pesto, grilled vegetable, and

steak, and then move down the counter adding their choice of beans, salsas, and extras like cheese and sour cream. Qdoba also sells quesadillas, tacos, taco salads, nachos, and soups. "People like the freshness," Shipman says. "The only things we fry in our restaurants are our chips and our taco shells and our bowls we use for taco salads. And we buy all our produce from [locally owned] Frog Holler Produce."

Keeping a local focus is important to Shipman. A fifty-one-year-old Ann Arbor native, he started in the restaurant business at sixteen, washing dishes at the Hungry Tiger, now Holiday's, on Stadium, and spent nearly two decades with Domino's Pizza, where he worked his way up to regional vice-president. And to come full circle, he worked at the Shell station at Washtenaw and Huron Parkway in high school—right across the street from where he opened a Qdoba in 2005.

Qdoba Mexican Grill, 1771 Plymouth Road, phone unavailable at press time. Mon.–Fri. 10:30 a.m.–10 p.m., Sat. 11 a.m.–10 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–9 p.m. qdoba.com.

Ulta Beauty, a fast-growing cosmetics and (mainly) hair care superstore, has opened in Cranbrook Village next to David's Bridal. In an email, manager Gena Juncaj described Ulta as a "comprehensive beauty shopping experience, bringing together an unparalleled selection of prestige skincare and cosmetics products, fragrances, and professional hair care products." Those who know the store say you catch some pretty good deals by taking advantage of Ulta's coupons and its rewards program, the Ulta Beauty Club, where you rack up points for purchases (and get lots more coupons). There's also an in-store salon.

Ulta, 928 West Eisenhower (Cranbrook Village), 205–2093. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Sun. 11 a.m.–6 p.m. ulta.com

It sounds as if it has something to do with investment banking, but **Citi Trends,** which opened in December in Glencoe Crossing Shopping Center on Washtenaw, calls itself "a value-priced retailer of urban apparel and accessories for the whole family." The public relations code words appear to translate to "inexpensive clothing targeted at the African American community." There are about 300 Citi Trends around the country now, and southeastern Michigan has a particularly high concentration.

A phone call from corporate quickly nixed a management-guided tour of the store, but the big, boxy space is pretty easy to navigate on your own. It has plenty of big and tall hip-hop T-shirts for the men, with unreadable logos in black-letter script emblazoned across the front. There's also a magnificent wall of shapely, feather-decked Sunday-morning hats for women, along with racks of scrubs and glittery T-shirts for everyday. All Citi Trend stores, including this one, have a uniformed security guard roving the premises.

Citi Trends, 4729 Washtenaw (Glencoe Crossing), 248–0988. Mon.–Sat. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sun. 1–6 p.m. www.cititrends.com

With one master's degree in clothing and textiles and a second in the history of clothing, Monica Ladd is uniquely qualified to run a costume shop. But after twenty-three years of dressing people up, Ladd's ready to move on, so she's selling **Fantasy Attic** to longtime employees Bill Brennan and Wendy Wagner-Satwicz.

In 1985 Ladd bought what was then called Lucky Costumes, a seasonal business above what was then Lucky Drugs on Main Street. She changed the name, opened year round, and did well enough that when her downtown building went condo in 2000, she could afford to move to much larger quarters at Packard and Platt.

Brennan and Wagner-Satwicz have both been with the store since before the move—and now they're moving it again. They'll take over three adjoining storefronts in Ypsilanti's Depot Town; that sounds like a lot of room, but they're actually downsizing from 8,000 square feet to 5,000. In December they were shooting for a January 5 opening.

Ladd isn't sure what she'll do next, but she knows it's time for a change. "This kind of business is hard on you," she says. "I have to tote all the costumes from the storage area up to the front. I have to iron them. I've schlepped more stuff than many moving companies. I'd like to go before they take me out on a gurney."

Fantasy Attic, 19 East Cross Street, Ypsilanti, 429–5409. Mon.–Wed. 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Thurs. & Fri. 10 a.m.–8 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.–5 p.m. Closed Sun. fantasyattic.com

Closings

All 250 **Steve & Barry's** stores, including the Ann Arbor location on State Street, were scheduled to close by early 2009. The twenty-year-old chain's rapid growth was based on a single idea: selling collegiate-licensed clothing for less than $10 to the college market. But then, in an ultimately misguided effort to reinvent itself, the company signed several celebrities, including Sarah Jessica Parker, to license their names to exclusive clothing lines. Unlike the cheap college wear, though, Parker's line topped out at twenty bucks with tax. Sales went up, but profit margins went down. Throw in a terrible economy, and Steve & Barry's sank under the weight of its own upscale aspirations—if you can call a $20 Sarah Jessica Parker denim jacket upscale.

Asked when exactly the State Street Steve & Barry's would close, a store employee said he didn't know for sure. "Whenever we run out of stock," he said in mid-December. "And the shelves are pretty bare right now."

Got a retail or restaurant change? Send email to sallymitani@gmail.com or tonymcreynolds@tds.net, or leave voicemail at 769–3175, extension 320.

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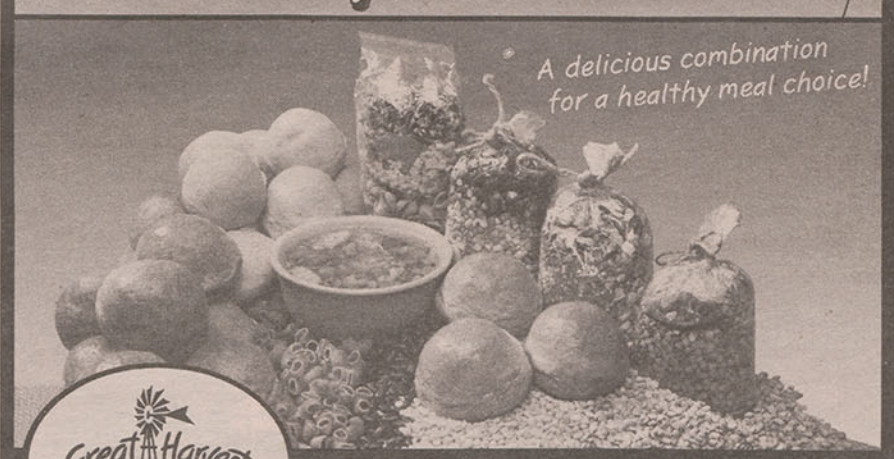

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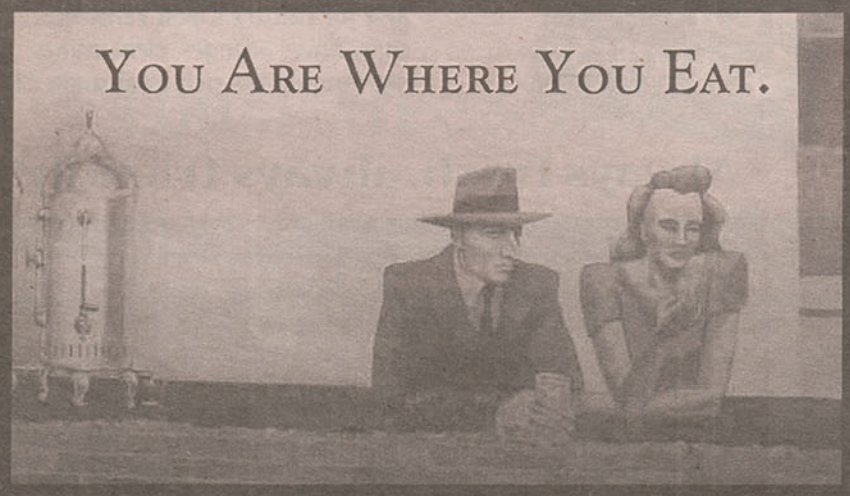

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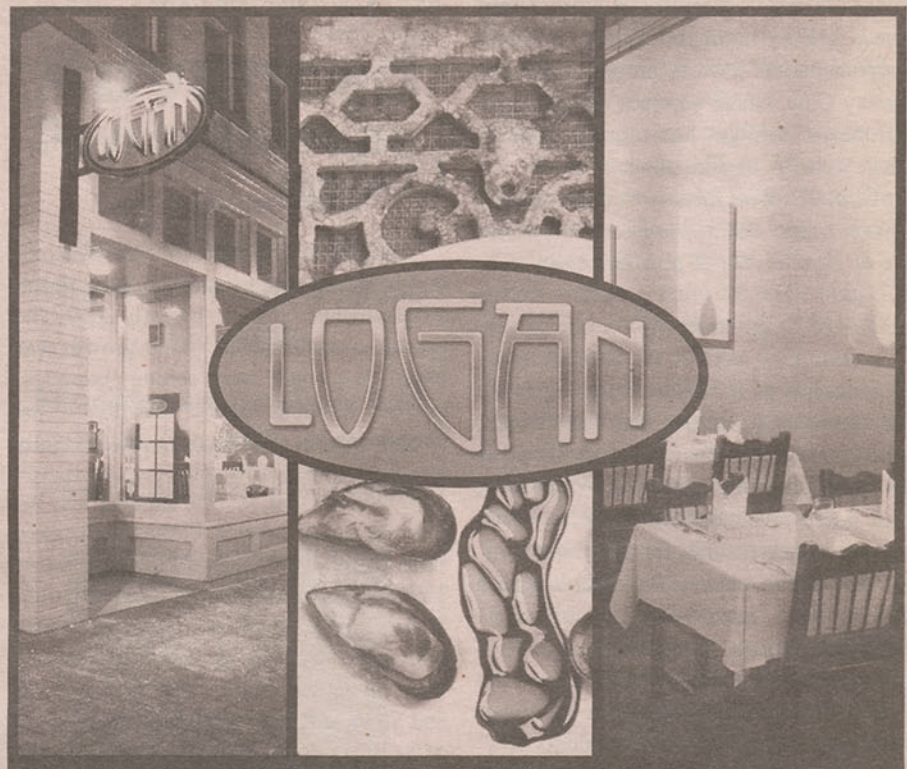

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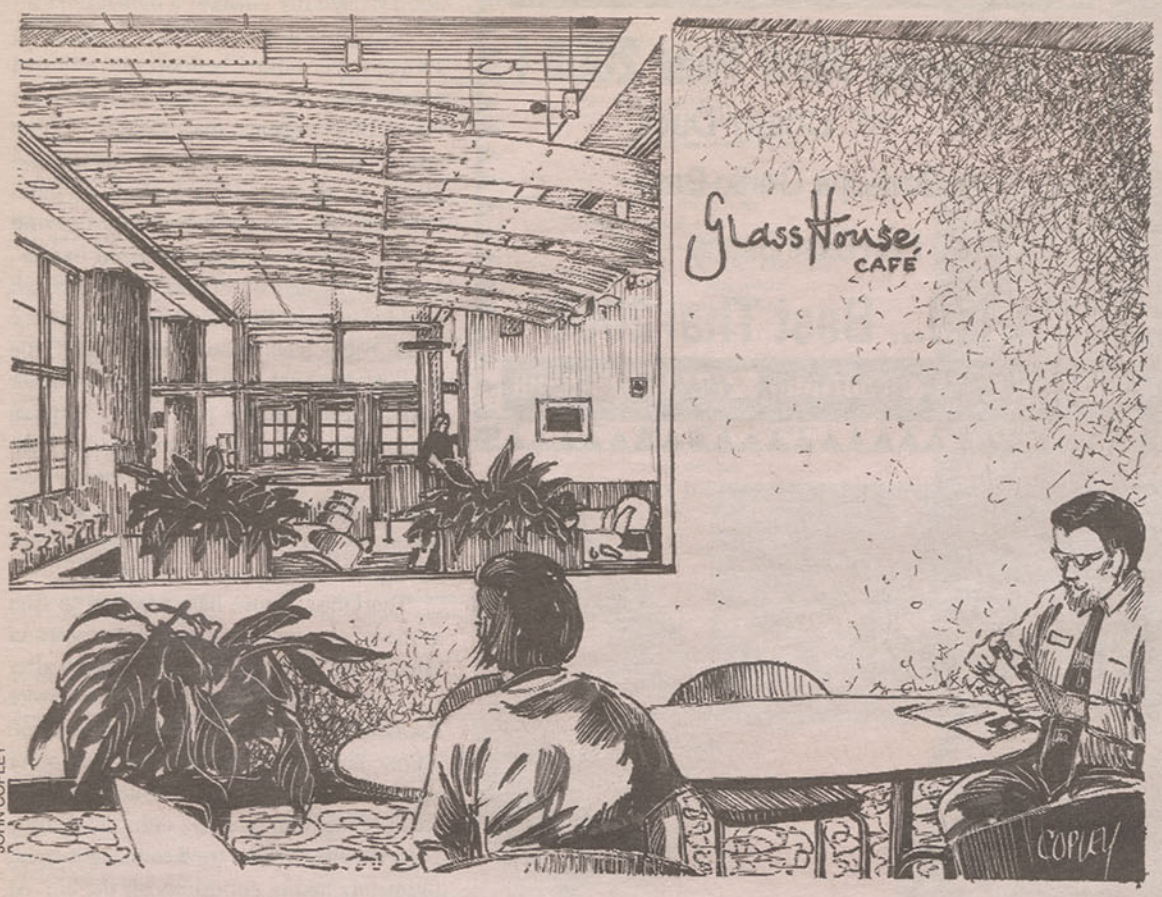

JOHN COPLEY

Glass House Cafe

Good food on campus

The U-M's latest restaurant may lack the aged patina of its brethren in the Michigan Union and Michigan League, but it more than makes up for that in wonderful food. The Glass House Cafe opened quietly this past fall in Palmer Commons, at the curve where Huron becomes Washtenaw. It's essentially a lunchroom in an office building—but what a building, and what a lunchroom. A restful and supremely unclaustrophobic space, its walls of glass bring in megalumens of natural light. The superb design picks up and plays off that glow with metallic-textured wall coverings and floating light fixtures in sculptural sheets of translucent acrylic resin. From the low upholstered banquettes to the chairs of steel and blond wood and the sky gray carpet, the graceful, airy furnishings have a streamlined moderne-deco cast, but the real stars in this room are the light and the view. What a lovely place to sit in winter.

The operating times and menu reflect the restaurant's core functions of breakfast and lunch: the dining room service operates only from half past seven in the morning until two in the afternoon, and only during the week. The coffee bar dispenses Starbucks drinks and prepacked edibles through the dinner hour.

The cafe is run by Elizabeth Kennedy, owner of one of my favorite restaurants, Evans Street Station in Tecumseh; Evans Street's chef, Alan Merhar, also heads the Glass House kitchen. I cherish Evans Street so much, in fact, that I was hesitant to try the food at the Glass House, fearing it might fall short of my happy memories of the parent. After my first bite here, I breathed a big sigh of relief. Then I commenced to clean my plate.

Although lunch entrees are on the pricey side, the value is in the careful cooking and the quality of ingredients—where feasible, the kitchen uses local products. The chicken, for example, is a skinless breast, pan seared without a lot of fuss. It comes from Eat Local Eat Natural, the new Scio Township company that supplies restaurants with local goods. Chicken this fresh translates to a very juicy and tasty fillet. Served alongside are creamy mashed potatoes and simple steamed broccoli from Prochaska Farms near Tecumseh, surrounded by a thin ribbon of light lemony Mornay sauce. It was so light I wondered if, in traditional Mornay style, it had cheese in it, and asked the chef. Merhar told me he adds just enough Parmigiano-Reggiano to give it a creamy mouth-feel but not enough to weigh it down. The sum is a dish that feels straightforward, wholesome, and home cooked.

At one lunch our waiter even brought us each a gift—a bottle of Jones soda with a picture of John McCain on the label. The restaurant staff had ordered two cases each of McCain and Obama soda, and though they'd sold out of Obama quickly, they couldn't give away McCain.

As down-home as that chicken dinner was, the tuna salad is anything but traditional, and more exotic than local. The star ingredient, a fairly sizable fillet of fresh, high-grade yellowfin tuna, is flown in overnight from Hawaii. It is slathered in white shiromiso paste and black and white sesame seeds and briefly seared, but only enough to form a sort of sesame shell. The miso paste gives it a saltiness and the sesame seeds a nuttiness, and the combined effect is of a flavorful crust giving way to velvety raw tuna. The fish is sliced and fanned over chilled soba noodles (from Eden Foods in Clinton) tossed with julienne carrots, yellow and red peppers, scallions, shiitake mushrooms, and a ginger-citrus vinaigrette.

Garden-variety lunch staples—soups, salads, and sandwiches—are a good value at less than $10, and even these quotidian offerings feel special when plated on white porcelain and eaten with heavy cutlery. The traditional hamburgers are made with Knight's beef and expertly grilled to order with a few choice toppings like Maytag blue cheese and sautéed mushrooms. There are also panini and wraps, but the "Little Italy" panino I tried was a disappointment, despite quality prosciutto and capocollo—the lettuce melted to a mushy state, and the whole thing became something of a greasy muddle. All sandwiches come with either a mixed salad or thick fries dusted with an appealing salt-rosemary-Parmesan mixture, not bad though not made from fresh potatoes. My entree salad, a midsize Caesar, used good crisp lettuces, although the agreeably creamy dressing lacked the garlic-lemon-anchovy punch of a serious Caesar sauce. With those fresh local greens, though, it made for a fine lunch, bolstered by a trim fillet of salmon on the side.

If you have been good with the main course, you still have a chance to let loose at dessert with treats like the gigantic brownie sundae. Our waiter had the kitchen split one for us on two plates, where it was mounded with whipped cream and drizzled with dark chocolate; as the chocolaty brownie merged with vanilla ice cream, it was fully, gooily satisfying. My own favorite sweet is the understated lemon pound cake, baked here and served in slim slices topped with whipped cream and homemade peach jam.

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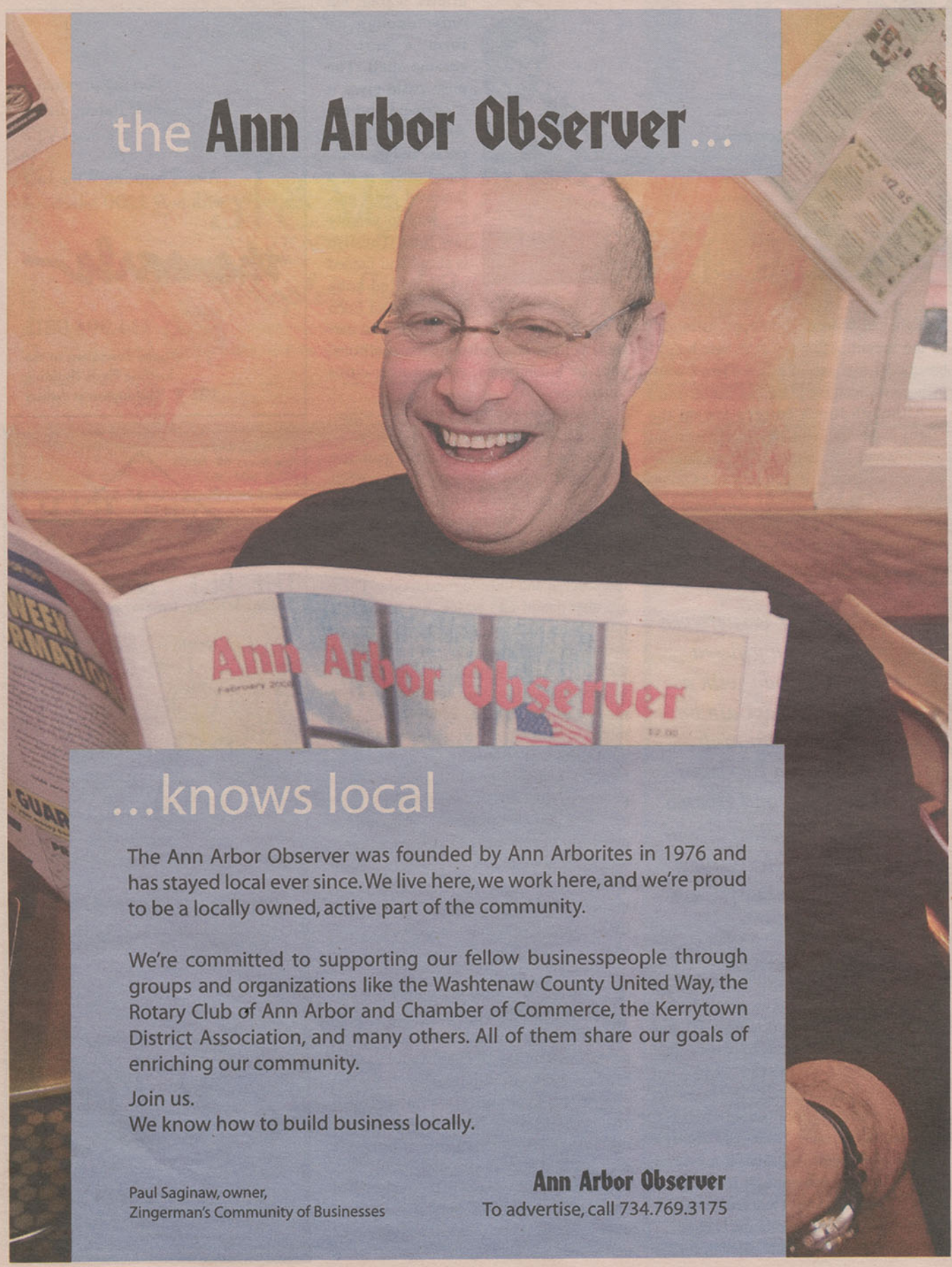
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I had just one Glass House breakfast, but it rivaled my lunches: a light, classically constructed omelet filled with fresh spinach, Vermont Cheddar, and sautéed mushrooms. It was exceptional, as were the accompaniments: thick rashers of crisp apple-wood-smoked bacon; substantial slices of toast; and a mound of hash browns that mixed cubed Russets and sweet potatoes with caramelized onions, fresh chives, and sweet basil. My one small quibble would be that the Glass House needs better jams at breakfast—those little packets don't cut it, and I know from other dishes here that the place does a mean homemade jam. Aside from that, even the coffee was terrific, served in a pretty porcelain cup with cream in a sleek angular metal pitcher. The tea water here is hot enough to actually brew a decent cup.

The Glass House has managed to find some of the most personable servers in Ann Arbor, and we were well looked after on all of our visits; recommendations were knowledgeable and delivery was prompt. At one lunch the server misheard our order and delivered a sirloin medium well instead of medium rare. We didn't have time for a do-over, so she tried to make it right, ultimately taking our drinks off the bill. At one lunch our waiter even brought us each a gift—a bottle of Jones soda with a picture of John McCain on the label. The restaurant staff had ordered two cases each of McCain and Obama soda, and though they'd sold out of Obama quickly, they couldn't give away McCain. I really didn't mean to, but when I packed up my stuff to leave, my subconscious left my McCain on the table.

As a townie, I might never have found my way to Palmer Commons if not for this assignment. But for anyone interested in architecture, this dazzling and functional building is worth a trip. And for foodies, the stunning space has its culinary counterpart in the impressive homespun fare of the Glass House Cafe.

—Bix Engels

Send quips, tips, and comments on local restaurants to the Bix Tip Line at bixtips@comcast.net.

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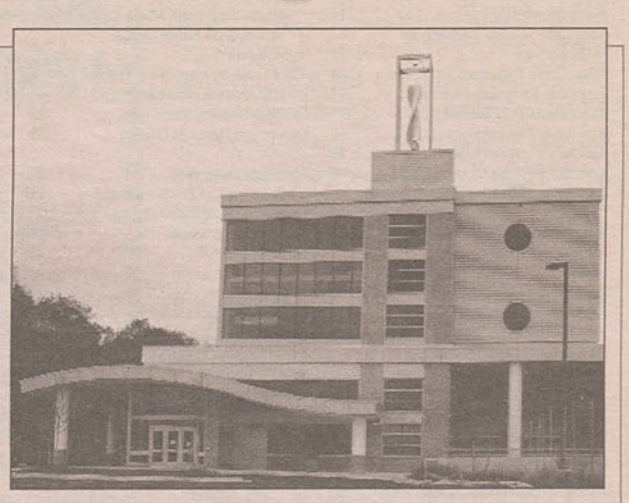
i spy

by Sally Bjork



New on the horizon.

To enter this month's I Spy contest, use the clue above and photo at right to find the spot shown, and send your entry to the address at the bottom of the page.

"Is this a trick?" wrote Mary Keeley. Keeley found December's I Spy—the sign marking the former University High School building on East University—"too easy . . . there are too many of us who went to 'U' High or the elementary school still [in Ann Arbor]."

"U-High was operated by the U-M as a learning lab for the School of Education," wrote Carole Taylor Betts. "I believe 1968 was the last class to graduate when the school closed."

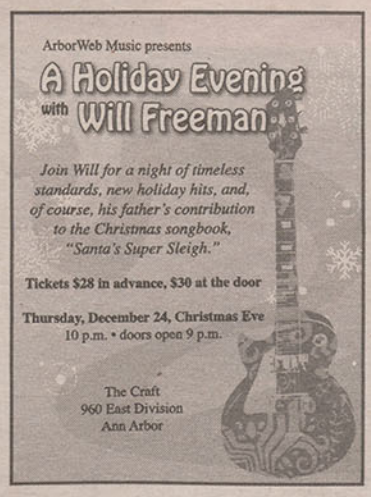
Local boy Jim Osterberg played a University High dance in 1963 with a group called the Iguanas—hence our clue that "Iggy Pop played here." That caught Cheryl MacKrell's attention. "He was my student in French at Ann Arbor High," MacKrell recalled, and "one of those students you never forget. . . . Most memorably, comparing American bread to French baguettes, he said you could take an entire loaf of Wonder Bread and squoosh it in your palms into a ball small enough to fit in your ear. A lot of fun to have in class."

We received eleven correct entries; MacKrell won our random drawing. She will receive a copy of *A History of Ann Arbor,* by Jonathan L. Marwil.

fake ad

by Jay Forstner

This Month's Video Rental Pick: *About a Boy* is an awesome little film based on Nick Hornby's book of the same name. It follows the odd friendship between an earnest but troubled preadolescent boy and a feckless but charming single man. Hugh Grant plays Will Freeman, the feckless but charming man (no great stretch there), and brings a blend of humor and humility to the role that seems quite natural.


ArborWeb Music presents
A Holiday Evening with Will Freeman
Join Will for a night of timeless standards, new holiday hits, and, of course, his father's contribution to the Christmas songbook, "Santa's Super Sleigh."
Tickets $28 in advance, $30 at the door
Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve
10 p.m. • doors open 9 p.m.
The Craft
960 East Division
Ann Arbor

Trivia Tidbit: *About a Boy* was also the inspiration for the Fake Ad on p. 78 of the December 2008 Ann Arbor Observer, "ArborWeb Music presents a Holiday Evening with Will Freeman," which elicited just seventy-eight (what's with all the seventy-eights around here?) correct entries. The winner of the random drawing, Theresa Roth, has the same last name as Philip Roth—like Hornby, a writer whose books have been turned into movies. Talk about coincidences!?

Contest Time! To enter, identify the January Fake Ad by name and page number and let us know at the address below. "ArborWeb" in December's Fake Ad deviously hid the magic word *arborweb*, the name of an Observer website—your clue that the ad was fake. The winner of our random drawing will receive a $25 gift certificate to any business advertising in this issue.

Send separate entries to Fake Ad or I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104. *Fax:* (734) 769–3375. *Email:* backpage@aaobserver.com. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received in the Observer office by noon on Friday, January 9, will be eligible for the January drawings.

school of art & design

JANUARY 2009

January 9 – January 30

Exhibition: *A&D 5th Annual Faculty Exhibition*

Works from thirty five artists-designers demonstrate the breadth of faculty creative engagements including installation, video, sound pieces, painting, drawing, photography, and sculpture.

Opening Reception: Friday 9 January 6 - 9pm
Slusser Gallery, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd. 1st floor
Performance Work by Faculty: Satuday 10 January 8pm
Duderstadt Video Studio, Duderstadt Center, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd.

January 9 – January 30

Exhibition: *OutModer*

New work by A&D graduate students Ashley Lieber and John Daniel Walters

Opening Reception: Friday 9 January 6 - 9pm
Warren Robbins Gallery, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd., 2nd floor

January 9 – January 30

Exhibition: *Meeting the Other: American and Egyptian Contemporary Prints*

An exhibition of contemporary American and Egyptian artists working in print media curated by Professor Karen Kunc, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Professor Wael A. Sabour, El-Minia University.

Opening Reception: Friday 9 January 6 - 9pm
Work • Ann Arbor, 306 S. State

January 10 – February 13

Exhibition: *Fear*

Artists and designers examine the power of fear to shape our perceptions and actions. what do you fear? What do you think others fear? What, if anything, should we all fear?

Closing Reception: Friday 13 February 6 - 9pm
Work • Detroit, 3663 Woodward Ave., Detroit

January 15

PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

Nick Tobier: *Interruptions for Everyday Life*

Nick Tobier's work examines social dynamism and the role of artist as catalyst and conduit. He has created public projects and actions nationally and internationally and performances on stage and in the streets from Italy to Suriname.

Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

January 17 – February 28

Exhibition: *Director's Choice*

An exhibition of work by select local and national artists chosen by Center Galleries Director Michelle Perron, including A&D Associate Professor Larry Cressman.

Opening Reception: Friday 16 January 6 - 8pm
Center Galleries, College for Creative Studies
301 Frederick Douglas Avenue, Detroit

January 22

PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

Gilgamesh: *(re)creating Gilgamesh: The Artistic and Technical Exploration of an Ancient Epic*

Composer Kinan Azmeh and Visual Artist Kevork Mourad have collaborated to illuminate the Mesopotamian Epic of Gilgamesh. The artists discuss their creative collaboration, and demonstrate their fusion of music, painting, and technology.

Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

January 29

PENNY W. STAMPS DISTINGUISHED VISTORS SERIES PRESENTATION

Hannah Smotrich: *Community Narratives*

Graphic designer Hannah Smotrich's work centers on issues of community, cultural history, identity and voice. Recent work includes a participatory public art project at the Jewish Cultural Festival in Krakow, Poland, and an integrated system of signage and publications for Washington D.C's Neighborhood Heritage Trails.

Presentation: 5:10pm
Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

January 31

Exhibition Reception : *Tirtza Even: Once A Wall, or Ripple Remains*

Installation of A&D Assistant Professor Tirtza Even's video piece, *Once Wall or Ripple Remains*, focusing on encounters in 1998 in the occupied territory of Palestine. The exhibition runs from 31 January – 28 February 2009, with full screening of the video 31 January at 9pm.

Opening Reception: Saturday 31 January 6 - 9pm
2739 Edwin Gallery, 2739 Edwin, Floor 2, Hamtramck, Mi 48212

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